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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH, 2012

Site visit as councillors ponder plan for Island

VALE planning councillors are to take a site visit to the Pleasure Park at Barry Island, before making a final decision on whether multi-million pound plans for redevelopment should get the go-ahead.

In recent years, the Pleasure Park has been operated on a lease basis to fairground showman Vernon Studt, but proposals assessed by councillors on February 2 could end the traditional rides and introduce a cinema, a bowling alley, 124 flats, restaurants and cafes.

by TIM
CHAPMAN

Council officers have recommended that the plans should go ahead, but councillors have decided to visit the site for a final time before making any commitment.

It is four years since they were first proposed and among the interested groups is the Save Our Cinema Group.

A member, Paul Sutton, said it wasn't a surprise that there had been a deferment, but he hoped that councillors weren't "stalling" and said that if nothing went ahead, people would be "deflated that nothing

was going to happen".

Mr Sutton explained: "I hope councillors will make a final decision on the development. If this doesn't go ahead, after being four years in the planning, where do we go then?"

He said the current plans of a mixed development satisfied those who wanted a residential component, and those who wanted an indoor entertainment area.

A number of Barry Island traders have repeatedly said that the Island desperately needs sheltered attractions for people to go when it rains because when poor weather arrives, visitors flee the area entirely.

It is astonishing to think that at one time Barry had a total of seven cinemas: the Theatre Royal, Romilly Cinema, Savoy Cinema, The Vince, the Tivoli, The Palace and the Plaza. Now in the 21st century, there isn't one!

Mr Sutton claimed: "The Island in its current form is not going to be the future. If the plans fail this time, it puts Barry Island back to the drawing board."

Celebrating the Welsh St Valentine!



ABOVE: Pupils at All Saints' Church-in-Wales Primary School celebrated Saint Dwynwen's Day recently with a range of activities. (FOR A REPORT AND MORE PICTURES, TURN TO PAGE 30).

Dinas footpath to be fenced off

THE Vale Council confirmed this week that it will be erecting a fence along the route of the Ash Path (a footpath also known as Public Right of Way 25, St Andrews Major) that runs from Murch Road at Dinas Powys to Sully Road at Penarth.

The 1.2m high traditional metal fence is being erected to safeguard users of the footpath from livestock on the field through which the footpath passes.

A council spokeswoman said: "The work to erect the fence

will be completed during the Easter holidays and follows the positive conclusion of discussions with the landowner."

Councillor Tony Hampton, cabinet member for education and lifelong learning, said: "I am delighted the fence will be erected this Easter."

"The Ash Path is recognised as an important link for the local communities, especially as it is regularly used by school children attending St Cyres Comprehensive School."

AGENCY PROBES 'ORANGE PLUME' AT ABERTHAW

ENVIRONMENT Agency Wales is investigating reports that brightly coloured smoke plumes were emitted by Aberthaw Power Station on Monday morning.

The orange-coloured plumes were reported from locations across the Vale, including Llantwit Major, Barry and Aberthaw.

However, the agency said that its investigations had revealed that nothing untoward had taken place.

A spokesman for Environment Agency Wales said: "We would like to reassure people that this coloured plume can occur when releases from Aberthaw Power Station are well within the permitted safe emission limits."

"It is likely that Monday's event was caused by the release of a plume containing low levels of nitrogen dioxide."

"The plume can appear as an orange/yellow cloud, or streak low in the sky

under certain lighting and weather conditions, and can move down the Bristol Channel with the wind."

"These conditions are much more common at this time of year, when the sun is low in the sky."

A spokeswoman for Aberthaw Power Station said that the cold, still air had meant that the cloud had not dispersed as it usually would, and said the orange colour was due to the sun."

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Who really won the Second World War?

FAR be it for me to belittle the sacrifices of US Forces and the US Airforce in particular, during World War Two, after they were forced into the war in the Far East by Japan and then had Nazi Germany declare war on them

This in spite of the strong strain in the USA of neutralism, if not Axis sympathy, from the large Germanic and Italian populations.

In The GEM on January 5, a short item reported that at Penarth Aviation Society, a talk was given on the vital role of the Mustang aircraft in the latter stages of the war.

The article stated: "If any can be said to have 'won the war', it was the American Mustang."

Well, with the late arrival of the Americans in the conflict, without

the Spitfire and Hurricane the war might well have been over before the Mustang even flew over Berlin.

Let's also not forget the role of the Red Air Force and Army; responsible for 87 per cent of all Wehrmacht and Luftwaffe casualties.

The battle of Stalingrad alone cost two million Russian lives; the whole war perhaps 20-25 million Russians.

In one battle, Kursk, the largest tank battle in history, the conflict of that one encounter ranged over an area the size of Wales!

So, who really won the war? It was not just the Mustang, putting fear into poor, old Hermann Goering – the Red Army was knocking on the door.

Christopher Short, Barry.

'Don't tarnish all dog owners'

IWOULD like to respond to the recent article calling for a dog ban on Barry Island beach and enlighten GEM readers and the Vale public alike to the true situation.

On Saturday January 21, I walked from Jackson's Bay to Whitmore Bay, Barry Island. What a pleasant walk it was – and lo and behold, 'NO' dog mess. What I did note, however, was that there were probably just as many dogs as there were owners ensuring their pets were getting fresh air and exercise.

In such a situation, it is clear that a very high percentage of dog owners are acting responsibly and ensuring footways are not fouled.

All I can suggest is that the gentleman who wrote the recent article of complaint must have been unlucky to see the disgusting sight he did.

I'm sure there are irresponsible dog owners who don't pick it up, but there are also many members of the public still discarding their litter as and when they please!

Let's not make mountains out of mole hills by such stereotypical statements that tarnish all dog owners, a beautiful Whitmore Bay and a stunning walk for all the public and their pets in the winter months.

Jeffrey Heathfield, Barry FocusBARRY supporter

'Welcome to Barry, Sainsbury's store'

IWELCOME Sainsbury's to Barry and applaud their valuable and much needed development in Park Crescent, which will substantially benefit the appearance of the area, bring consumer choice, local employment and much needed investment.

William Milne, Barry.

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We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

'From day one it should be a serene area' Barry Council's view on Cemetery approach plan

IWOULD like to take the opportunity to inform your readers of the official Barry Town Council position with regard to the land at Cemetery approach, Barry.

Since the first planning proposal from Newydd Housing Association was first mooted, Barry Town Council agreed a plan of action, which included proposals to redevelop the land for cemetery use at Cemetery approach.

A meeting was arranged with the Vale of Glamorgan Officials and Leadership following a Vale of Glamorgan planning meeting on the Housing Association's proposals, at which time Barry Town Council put forward their counter proposals.

The application from Newydd Housing Association was subject to an appeal and more recently, due to sound financial management, the Town Council has attempted to have sufficient funds available

to return to the Vale of Glamorgan Council for a further meeting.

Correspondence has been sent to the Vale of Glamorgan following a unanimous decision of Barry Town Council to attempt to acquire four parcels of land in the Barry area, those within close proximity to the cemetery, namely Cemetery approach east side, Land adjacent to Buttrills Community Centre, Slade Road Allotments and Lower Gladstone Gardens, locally known as Blind Park.

Correspondence between both parties has been exchanged and is progressing at this time, and Barry Town Council would welcome any suggestions on the acquisition of the land for the people of Barry.

For your readers' information, Barry Town Council, on acquiring the lands, will conduct a comprehensive consultation process with all interested parties on ideas, before formulating a plan of action. This plan would also be subject to

any improvements if additional funding was made available, thus warranting an improvement of the plan, but the plan cannot be seen as a panacea to all the aspirations of local groups.

The plan would very much be a compromise of all the ideas. The Town Council will update the public at all times whether through council's minutes or the council's website on these parcels of land.

In particular, Cemetery Approach: Barry Town Council feels that from day one, Cemetery approach should be maintained as a serene area, and any development should be in keeping with the serenity of this area.

The official view of Barry Town Council will indicate to your readers that they are very much conscious of the time that this has taken and urgency should be applied by all parties.
**Cliff Lewis
Barry Town Clerk**

'Civic leaders must remember fundamentally important policy'

LAST week, I attended the Vale Council meeting that approved the Local Development Plan for public consultation.

This is the fundamentally important policy that will impact on all planning decisions for the next 15 years, but many councillors were complaining that they had not received a copy

of the document, had insufficient time to consider the matter and that they wanted a briefing session.

Fortunately, one or two councillors were able to make some relevant contributions about the shortcomings of the proposals, but it was clear that the time scale and partisan voting by the Conservative majority would triumph.

The leader of the Vale Council, Coun Gordon

Kemp, rejected complaints by telling concerned councillors that the LDP was not impossible to access since they had a computer.

The planning Chair, Coun Jeffery James, told councillors that not providing printed documents was about "moving away from killing forests" and "nobody had asked for a briefing".

Perhaps our civic leaders need to be

reminded of the key principles quoted in their Community Involvement Scheme.

They are about "creating the conditions for early involvement and feedback at a stage when people can recognise a chance to influence the Plan", "encouraging the commitment of all participants to an open and honest debate" and "recognising the need to adopt approaches for engaging the community."

Some fine words, but what about the reality?
**Dennis Harkus, Barry
FocusBARRY supporter**

Another danger below the surface near Steep Holm?

SHORTLY after the last war, my father, 'Paddy' Howell, told me he was working on Barry Docks with other stevedores, loading thousands of large steel cylinders marked 'WD', the broad arrow and 'Mustard Gas' onto an old 'rust bucket' of a steamer, until it was fully laden.

He described how burns from leaking

cylinders had affected some of the workers. A couple of days later, I was swimming at Jackson's Bay, when my eardrums were painfully affected by a big explosion.

I stood up, to see a rusty old steamer a mile or two down channel from Steep Holm clearly visible, with a cloud of smoke above it.

It then slowly upended and sank. There is no reasonable doubt that the sinking was intentional and was

probably the cargo of mustard gas being disposed of.

The cylinder walls couldn't have been much more than 1/2" thick if that.

They are probably rusted through by now – so all the seaside resorts in the upper Bristol Channel will feel the effects soon and for many years – much more dangerous and carcinogenic than Chris Short's mine!
(Name and address supplied)

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Let us know your views on any issues affecting your community - email us at gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

Charity spring fair

THE Penarth fundraising committee for Cancer Research UK would like to thank all those hardy souls who braved the bad weather on Saturday, to come to the spring fair in the Paget Rooms; a total of £740 was raised.

Our next event will be the annual Big Breakfast and Table Top sale in All Saints Church Hall on Saturday, March 17. We hope to see you all there to sample our breakfast.
Jenny Brooks

ALL IN THIS TOGETHER?

IHAVE read two totally different stories this week that couldn't be so far apart and so unfair.

A soldier returning from Afghanistan has been medically discharged, due to deafness caused whilst serving his country.

On his return, he applied for compensation, but was denied. He now has to go on benefits to support his family. So much for the wonderful Government support for troops who lay their lives down to keep us safe.

The next story concerned a Government minister who resigned from the cabinet as he, along with his wife, are to be charged with a criminal offence which could include imprisonment, if found guilty.

However, while, the soldier can claim nothing, the cabinet minister is entitled to a payment of over £17,000. This is totally and morally wrong. He has resigned, not been sacked, or made redundant.

He should get what he is legally entitled to like the rest of us, and nothing else. It's about time MPs were stripped of their perks. David Cameron says we're all in this together; perhaps he should have a chat with that soldier and his family.
**DJ Radford
Barry**

Beach clean a big success

ABIG thank you to all who helped with our Porthkerry Beach clean on Sunday, January 29.

We were not expecting many people to turn up as it was drizzling, and grey, and cold.

But we had 35 volunteers who were eager to get stuck into some beach cleaning action!

We actually ran out of bibs and litter-pickers, as there were so many of us.

What a fantastic turnout and thank you all for your continued dedication in all weathers!

We collected 16 bags of general rubbish and 12 of recycling – again, our biggest rubbish collection to date.

A huge thank you to Claire for drying out all the bibs and gloves in her conservatory.

As she remarked, it looked like a Chinese laundry!

The next 'Clean-Up' will be at Jackson's Bay on Sunday, February, 26 at 3pm, meeting near the public toilet block down at the beach.

Gloves, bags and litter pickers will be provided.

Rob Curtis, Co-ordinator of FoBB, Barry.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL FEBRUARY 16)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
09 Thur	07.17	10.1	19.39	10.0
10 Fri	07.57	10.3	20.21	10.2
11 Sat	08.37	10.3	21.01	9.9
12 Sun	09.16	9.9	21.39	9.7
13 Mon	09.58	9.5	22.22	9.2
14 Tues	10.44	9.1	23.11	8.6
15 Wed	11.41	8.4		
16 Thur	00.17	8.0	12.59	7.9

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

First phase of £500,000 facelift is celebrated

A PARTNERSHIP in the heart of Barry is celebrating the completion of the first phase of a long-awaited £500,000 facelift of a local community centre.

Castleland Community Association and the Drop-In Centre Development Trust hope to have the centre fully operational in time for St David's Day.

The project was carried out by architect

Chris Brimble of Arden Kitt Associates and Henstaff Construction.

Commenting on the transformation of the building in recent months, Eileen Moore, the chair of the association, enthused: "The reality is even better than the plans we had!"

"The important thing is that the organisation has made good the promise it made to the community five years ago.

"Among the facilities

are a new main hall, an IT suite, a counselling room and a community café."

The scheme has been funded by a Big Lottery grant.

In the last few days, the contractors have turned the pristine building over to local volunteers.

Mrs Moore said: "There is still some work to do, but we aim to be fully operation by March 1, St David's Day."

Staff raised £300 for cancer charity

BONMARCHE staff in Holton Road, Barry, have raised £300 for Macmillan Cancer Care in three weeks by selling 'purse bells'.

The idea is that a 'purse bell' can act as a deterrent to pick-pockets.

The manager, Sandra Downing, explained: "In hard times, it is more important than ever that we support charities.

"We started selling the purse bells on the till and within weeks, we've sold 300 at £1 a time.

"It's a security type of product and they've really caught on. If someone tries to take a purse the bell rings to alert them."

One staff member, Sue Peppiatt, said: "We had a customer today who came in and bought one for herself and more for her friends and spent £6 on them."

Bonmarche was part of the Peacocks group which went into administration recently and the staff had feared for their jobs.

On Friday, February 3, the staff in Holton Road received the good news that their jobs were safe.

A private equity group, Sun European Partners, announced that Barry, along with 229 other stores, would remain open.

Sandra said: "Staff were thrilled when we got the news. We want to thank all the our customers for their support and encouragement in recent weeks."

RYAN IS JUST PIPPED IN CHEFS' AREA FINAL

FOLLOWING his success in the first round of the Barry Rotary Club's Young Chef competition recently in Barry Comprehensive School, Ryan James from Ysgol Bro Morgannwg, went on to represent Barry in the Vale area final on January 30 at Cowbridge Comprehensive School.

The Rotary Club of Barry has announced that Ryan has awarded second place in the competition, which was won by Amelia Glanville from Cowbridge Comprehensive School, who will now go forward to represent the Vale in the South Wales final in Barry on Saturday, February 25.

Judge George Fuchs from Iltyd 216 in Llantwit Major praised all the competitors for their talents, and said that it had been a difficult job to choose a winner.

Prizes were presented by Tony Stevens, the assistant governor of Area 8.

The president of Barry Rotary Club, Mr. Dave Ball, said he was impressed with the high standard of cooking and the dedication of the stu-

ABOVE:

Vale area winner Amelia Glanville, judge George Fuchs, Ryan James and Leow Morris.



Residents are concerned over rise in traffic congestion

PLANS for an additional 400 houses in Dinas Powys have been met with disbelief in the community.

The land includes the site of St Cyres School at the top of Murch Crescent and another site adjacent to Caerleon Road.

A spokesperson for Dinas Powys Plaid Cymru, said that the main fear was concerning the additional traffic that would be generated.

Residents, already expecting increased traffic from 2,000 dwellings at Barry Waterfront, fear that the two further developments will mean, in total, an extra 2-3,000 vehicles in the area. Already the new Tesco is causing congestion outside the store in the Murch.

Vale's Plaid chairman of the scrutiny committee for economy and environment, Coun Chris Williams, said that he was very disappointed by the attitude of other cabinet members. He said: "There has been no explanation of how the increased traffic will be controlled."

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(valued up to £6.10)
1 Pulao Rice,
1 Nan Bread,
1 Pappadam

ROYAL BALTI FOR 2 PERSONS £18.95

SAVE OVER £9.00
Any 2 Appetisers
(valued up to £2.95)
Any 2 Curries
(valued up to £6.10)
Any 1 Side Dish,
1 Nan Bread, 2 Pulao Rice,
2 Pappadams & Chutneys

ROYAL BALTI FOR 4 PERSONS £36.95

SAVE OVER £18.00
Any 4 Appetisers
(valued up to £2.95)
Any 4 Curries
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Any 2 Side Dishes,
2 Nan Bread, 4 Pulao Rice,
4 Pappadams & Chutneys

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Cheezy Lazeez Tikka.....£6.25

Marinated chicken or lamb tikka cooked with chef's special herbs in a medium sauce topped up with grated cheese

Morris Pora.....£6.10

Chicken or lamb cooked in a richly thick sauce with special ground spices and topped with dry red chillies.

Kochi Tikka.....£6.25

Marinated chicken or lamb tikka cooked with fresh spices in a bhuna sauce topped up with deep fried onions.

Shahi Honey Korma (n)....£5.95

Chicken or lamb cooked in a very mild almond and coconut sauce with honey.

Mughlai Garlic Chilli.....£6.25

Chicken tikka cooked with fresh garlic & chilli with caramelised onions with a hint of our chef's ground spices.

Fish Karahi.....£6.50

Boneless filleted fish cooked with garlic, ginger, pepper and coriander in a richly spiced sauce with a hint of our chef's unique ground spices.

Mango Chicken (n).....£6.10

Chicken cooked in a very mild almond and coconut creamy sauce with mango and a hint of spice. Topped with cream and sesame seeds.

Naga Jaipuri.....£6.10

Tender chicken or lamb slow cooked with freshly ground spices in a jaipuri style with fresh naga chilli.

Peri Peri Tikka.....£6.25

Marinated chicken or lamb tikka cooked with green beans, peas, fresh green chillies and garlic in a slightly hot sauce.

Great offers available for School Holidays

Ashgrove School achieves a prestigious ICT Mark award

ASHGROVE School received its ICT Mark certificate in a national award ceremony at the BETT Show in Olympia, London on January 12.

The award is the culmination of a process of review and development of the use of information and communications technology (ICT) in the school.

It is linked to an online review tool, known as the Self-review Framework, which helps schools gather evidence about how they use ICT in learning and teaching, and within the management of the school.

Standards set nationally are designed to ensure that the school's investment in ICT equipment is matched by its effective use in lessons. Teachers are expected to have gained suitable skills and understanding to



LEFT: Bernadette Brooks, the Naace general manager, awards the certificate to school staff.

improve learning and teaching where ICT is being used; appropriate systems should also be in place to record pupils' achievements and underpin other key aspects of the school's management.

Schools holding the award will have effective Safeguarding policies and procedures in place to ensure the school community is operating best practice in e Safety.

Developing appropriate policies and teaching plans, training teachers and ensuring that the school's ICT equipment

is ready for use, involves staff working exceptionally hard to ensure that pupils gain an outstanding education which is firmly supported by ICT.

It is felt important that ICT has a real impact on the experience and progress of pupils within the school.

The visiting ICT Mark Assessor stated that the schools approach to using ICT was sector leading feature. Ashgrove School's Estyn inspectors echoed this high praise in their recent inspection report.

Headteacher Mr Chris Britten commented: "On

behalf of Ashgrove School, I am delighted that we have received this award as recognition of the high standard of ICT at our school.

"The award celebrates the excellent levels of ICT that all our staff and pupils are working at.

"We are very proud to include the mark on our website and our mailings and this has been noted on a number of occasions, which has further raised the profile of ICT at the school. Our recent (August 2011) ESYN report positively acknowledged that we had received the ICT Mark in the description

of the school."

Simon Wilson (ICT coordinator), who coordinates the schools approach to using ICT, and ensured it was ready for ICT Mark assessment, commented: "I am really pleased that the presentation of this award shows recognition of the excellent ICT work that is taking place at our school.

It had brought into focus the ICT work being done each day. All the children and staff deserved credit for this achievement.

Bernadette Brooks, Naace general manager, said: "Ashgrove School thoroughly deserve the accolade of an ICT Mark accreditation. They clearly demonstrate how important it is to take a whole school approach to using ICT in schools.

"We look forward to working with the school to demonstrate how ICT can have a substantial impact on learner outcomes in the future."

FocusBARRY takes a fresh approach



ABOVE: FocusBARRY's management team, Jonathan Osbourne, John Donovan, Dave Green, Jeff Heathfield, Gill Davis, Dennis Harkus, Karen Gallimore.

FOCUSBARRY held their second AGM last week at the West End Club, St Nicolas Road, Barry, when proposals to amend the constitution and a strategy to take the group forward were agreed, and the management team for 2012 were elected (see photograph).

A spokesperson reports: The group has had success and sadness during 2011. Brian Osborne, one of the founders of FocusBARRY died following a short illness and we will miss his inspiration and enthusiasm.

The group supported Independent candidate, Jeffrey Heathfield, at the Dyfan by-election in February and we

were pleased to receive 19 per cent of the vote from residents of the Dyfan Ward.

We know that the people who make decisions about Barry are unhappy about being criticised, but members and supporters will continue challenging those in power.

Barry has been losing its identity and we want that to change. We believe our voices are making a difference and Barry is firmly back on the agenda. We want that to continue after the elections in May.

Contact FocusBARRY by writing to 1 Lewis Street, Barry, CF62 6JW, by leaving a message at 01446 721019 or emailing FocusBARRY@live.co.uk.

News from Gladstone Primary School

RUGBY fever hit Gladstone Primary School on February 2 in the run-up to the Six Nations tournament, when a sporting celebrity visited the school.

Cardiff Blues player Dafydd Hewitt was in Gladstone to present the school with the

Healthy Schools National Quality Award (NQA).

Gladstone was one of the founder members of the Vale Network of Healthy Schools in 2001.

In order to be entered for the National Award the school had to demonstrate excellence in all

of the Healthy Schools indicators, which include food and fitness, safety, environment, hygiene and well being.

NQA assessors spent two days at Gladstone, and met children, including members of the School Council, staff, governors and parents, as well as visiting the breakfast club, the school canteen and experiencing life on the yard at play-times.

By achieving the NQA, staff and children at Gladstone have demonstrated that they are firmly committed to promoting a healthy workplace. Gladstone is one of only 17 schools in the whole of Wales to achieve this.



Cardiff Blues star Dafydd Hewitt with pupils at Gladstone Primary School.

Helen Reilly, who with Ali Griffiths co-ordinates the scheme at Gladstone, said, "We are absolutely thrilled to receive this award which, we believe, fully reflects the excellent practice that is carried out here at Gladstone.

"Our thanks go to Carol Maher, the Vale Healthy Schools Coordinator who has supported us for the last 11 years, and Dafydd Hewitt, who gave up his own time to come in and present the award to us."

Atlantic rowers welcomed home

THE Vale AM, Jane Hutt, joined other well wishers at Marco's Café on Barry Island, to congratulate two Vale firemen, John Haskell and Jamie Windsor on completing a marathon row across the Atlantic Ocean to raise money for four different charities.

She commented: "It was very inspiring to meet John Haskell

who, along with Jamie Windsor, took part in a gruelling 3,000 mile row across the Atlantic Ocean.

"The money raised from their 'Atlantic Dash' will go towards Help for Heroes,

Breast Cancer Care, the Women's Royal Voluntary Service and the Fire fighters charity. This phenomenal achievement will benefit wonderful causes."

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Text VALE to 61122



Book sales in the park

STARTING today, (Thursday) the Friends of Victoria Park will be having a weekly 'tatty book sale' at the room in the park, Victoria Park, Barry.

There will be a selection of second hand books for sale. With kids books from 25p, and novels from 50p, there is sure to be a bargain for bookworms.

All proceeds from the sales will go to the Dogs Trust charity. The sale is every Thursday from 2pm-4pm in the room in the park (adjacent to the park office).

For further details of events in Victoria Park, contact Jon Greatrex, Victoria Park Manager on 07809 551465 or email jgreatrex@vale-of-glamorgan.gov.uk

Vale MP hosts a briefing session on funding for local charities in Barry

ALUN Cairns MP recently arranged a successful grant briefing event in Barry for local charities and voluntary organisations.

More than 40 people attended the briefing session, which took place at the Barry Community Enterprise Centre.

Those attending represented a wide range of organisations, which ranged from local community groups, fundraising committee representatives, disabled activity groups, primary school PTAs and local churches.

PRESENTATIONS

The Vale MP had co-ordinated the grant briefing to include presentations from officers from all the Lottery Funding programmes, the Vale Council for Voluntary Services and Groundwork.

The grant providers shared information with attendees on ways of accessing grants, and information on Lottery Funding programmes and the impact of their funding across the Vale of Glamorgan.

Coun Rhodri Traherne welcomed everyone to the event, which provided the opportunity for attendees to discuss specific issues about funding their projects directly with staff from the VCVS, Big Lottery Fund, Heritage Lottery Fund, Sports Wales

and Arts Council of Wales.

Mr Cairns explained: "I'm often approached by local community groups and charities who ask my advice on what grants or funding may be available for their group. I was keen to hold a grant briefing surgery to make sure that as many groups as possible were able to find out first-hand, what grants may be available to them."

"I was so pleased that The Big Lottery, Heritage Lottery, Sport Wales and the Arts Council of Wales as lottery funders and also VCVS and Groundwork were willing to come along and discuss their schemes and application processes with community groups and charities from across the Vale."

'WORTHWHILE'

"Attendees were able to hear from each of the funding organisations in turn."

"It was then over to the attendees themselves to quiz the officers and find out exactly what they needed to do to make sure they could bid for funding to support their own group or charity."

"The packed event proved to be worthwhile, with many learning of new funding opportunities, and it's certainly an event I shall look to stage again in the future."

ART TRAIL FOR SULLY?

THE Vale Council has appointed two artists to develop a 'public art trail' in Sully.

Although the precise location for the trail and the artwork has yet to be decided, it will lead through the town and along a section of the coastal path.

A council spokeswoman said: "Maureen O'Kane is an award-winning mosaic artist and teacher. She specialises in producing original, site specific public artworks for interior and exterior locations."

"Carlos Pinatti was born in Argentina from Italian parents and moved to Wales in 1992. He now works as a professional artist and teacher of video, installation and sculpture."

"Both artists will be running workshops to help them develop a greater understanding of the area, as well as to research its history."

There will be an open evening, and a chance to meet the artists, on Friday, February 10, at the Jubilee Hall in Sully, between 6pm - 8pm.



ABOVE: PICTURED: (Left to right) Coun Pamela Drake, Coun Chris Elmore, Val Gronow, Sylvia Eriksen, Rose Dawe and Tom Gilbert.

Councillors cheque in for a party!

VALE of Glamorgan Labour councillors for the Castleland Ward in Barry, Chris Elmore and Pamela Drake, recently met residents from Phillipa Freeth Court for a belated Christmas party and to present a £100 cheque to the residents' social fund.

The councillors, who had donated the money themselves, met around 20 of the residents who live at Phillipa Freeth Court, took part in a 'Christmas' raffle and enjoyed a buffet organised by the residents' social group.

Plaid unveil candidates

PLAID Cymru have revealed the two young candidates they have chosen to stand for election against the Conservatives in Cornerswell in May.

Osian Lewis, 23, is a Plaid Cymru researcher and postgraduate student at Cardiff University, who currently lives on Victoria Road and attended Ysgol Pen y Garth, is "keen to pres-

sure the council to work with the Welsh Government to give business rate relief to small businesses in town centres".

Luke James, 24, a former Evenlode Primary and Stanwell School pupil, who is currently president of Swansea University students' union, is the second candidate and says he is equally eager to bring new blood into the council chambers.



ABOVE:

Left to right: Osian Lewis, Rhuanedd Richards (Plaid Cymru Chief Executive), Coun Margaret Randall (Leader of Plaid Cymru group on the Vale Council) and Luke James. Osian and Luke have been selected as the Plaid Cymru candidates for the Cornerswell ward.

Fairfield school wins praise

CARDIFF South and Penarth AM, Vaughan Gething, recently visited pupils and staff at Fairfield Primary

School, as part of his promise to visit all 49 schools in his constituency.

The AM attended the school's weekly

achievement assembly and took part in a question and answer session with year-6 pupils. He also spoke to pupils about

their project on goals and inspirational people.

"It was a pleasure to visit Fairfield Primary and take part in a Q&A session with pupils. They were confident and polite and had plenty of questions to ask. I was impressed to hear their aspirations for the future," the AM said.



Karys Hudson.

Race Equality calendar winner

Karys Hudson of St Cyres School, (pictured above) was one of seven first-prize winners selected from more than 1,000 entries in the Vale of Glamorgan Race Equality calendar competition. of August.



BARRY TOWN COUNCIL CYNGOR TREF Y BARRI

GRANTS FOR LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

Applications are invited from local voluntary and not for-profit organisations seeking financial assistance in 2012/13. Forms are available from Barry Town Council, 7 Gladstone Road, Barry, CF62 8NA.
Telephone: (01446) 738663 info@barrytowncouncil.gov.uk

Your constitution and latest audited accounts must accompany the application. New organisations must submit a business plan/budget in place of audited accounts. All applications complying with these criteria will be considered. The submission of an application does not guarantee that a grant will be awarded.

The Council is unable to consider applications from or on behalf of National Organisations, unless they can demonstrate that their services benefit a significant proportion of the local community.

Applications should be returned to the address given below by or before Thursday 1st March 2012.

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RHYS TO CARRY OLYMPIC FLAME

PENARTH resident Rhys Jenkins has been selected as one of 100 people who will help carry the Olympic torch, when it completes the torch relay stage between Cardiff and Swansea on May 26.

Keen runner Rhys was nominated by friends and family as a contender to carry the torch due to his phenomenal fundraising achievements over the last two years.

He has raised thousands of pounds for charity thanks to a series of ultra-endurance races, including a 2,000-mile run across America, a 750-mile run around Wales, and a non-stop 105-mile run from Aberystwyth to Cardiff



ABOVE: Rhys Jenkins with his brother, Scott, who also completed the 2,000-mile run across America.

that he completed in just 27 hours! Nationally, 28,000 people have been chosen to accompany the flame over 8,000 miles between May 19 and July 27.

It's salsa and sangria at Dinas Powys!

THE 2012 Dinas Powys Eisteddfod Committee has been busy raising funds for the National Eisteddfod of Wales in Llandow, this August.

Events which have already taken place include an evening with Rhodri Morgan, a barbecue, twmpath, fish and chip nights at The Star in Dinas Powys, a walk to the local iron age fort and a family treasure hunt.

Through these activities, people of all ages from Dinas Powys and further afield have socialised, learnt and enjoyed themselves and contributed to the fund.

A 'Salsa and Sangria' night will be held tomorrow, February 10, at the Parish Hall in Dinas Powys at 7.30pm – an opportunity to take part in and/or watch a demonstration of salsa dancing. Tickets are £10, to include light refreshment available from Julia Beasley, 02920 512185 or Jayne Lewis, 02920 513500.

One of the forthcoming events includes a gala concert, with the Ecumenical Seven, on March 2, at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall. Tickets (£10) from the Parish Hall.

The group is now one third of the way towards its £12,000 pound target.

JL

CHORAL SOCIETY WELCOMES WELSH SUPERSTAR AS NEW PRESIDENT

BARRY Choral Society members were saddened when in 2011, their long standing president, Robert Tear, passed away, having suffered from cancer.

Robert, one of the great tenors of his generation, and loved by opera audiences worldwide, was born in Barry to Tom and Edith Tear in March 1939.

He attended Barry Boys Grammar School, was a chorister at St Mary's Church, and won a scholarship to King's College, Cambridge.

There, guided by Sir David Willcocks, Robert moved to become a chorister at St Paul's Cathedral.

So his career began – studying with Julian Kimbell and working with the Ambrosian Singers.

From the early 1960s and into the 1970s, Robert was involved in singing works by Benjamin Britten. Soon, Robert's career was international, singing for Georg Solti and Leonard Bernstein, among many others.

For more than 40 years, Robert met many tough challenges. He was a fine lyrical tenor, had an inquiring intellect and was a man with praiseworthy musicianship.

His final performance was in 2009 at the Royal Opera House, playing Emperor Altoun in Puccini's *Turandot*.

As a Fellow of RWCMD, Robert took many masterclasses at the college and was an adjudicator for the Young Welsh Singer competition and Cardiff BBC Singer of the World. His death has been a sad loss to the international music world, to Barry and to Wales.

Who could replace Robert as president of Barry Choral Society?

An inquiry on Facebook brought an unexpected reply. Bryn Terfel would be pleased to become the new president of Barry Choral Society.

Born in Pant Glas, north Wales, Bryn had an interest in, and a talent for, music from a very early age.

He won many competitions for his singing. In 1984, he became a student at the Guildhall School of Music, studying under Rudolph Pienary and graduated in 1989, winning both the Kathleen Ferrier Memorial Prize and the Gold Medal.

The same year, Bryn won the Lieder Prize at the Cardiff BBC Singer of the World Competition.

Bryn's opera debut was in 1990 when he played Guglielmo in *Così fan Tutte* with WNO. In 1991, his international operatic career took off when Bryn sang the Speaker in *The Magic Flute* in Brussels.

Twenty two years later, Bryn has become the greatest bass-baritone of his generation, having sung in all the leading opera houses of the world.

Bryn has been honoured in becoming a member of the Gorsedd of the Bards; with the CBE; and is only the second recipient of the Queen's Medal for Music, Sir Charles Mackerras being the first.

He is a Fellow of RWCMD and Jesus College, Oxford.

The committee and members of Barry Choral Society are honoured and delighted to accept Bryn Terfel as their new president.

BERYL WEALE, chairman

Students learn magic of books at college in Barry



ABOVE: Cat Weatherill (front row, holding books) with Cardiff and Vale College vocational access students.

A PROFESSIONAL storyteller has been giving students a taste of the magic of books at Cardiff and Vale College's Colcot Road Learning Zone.

As part of a Welsh Government scheme, the college hosted author and storyteller Cat Weatherill for the first part of a new reader development initiative.

Students on the vocational access course, who often require additional support at college, took part in an interactive storytelling session and experiments from the book *Wholly Irresponsible Experiments* by Sean Connolly.

One student admitted: "I would never have opened this book, because the cover looks boring, but now I will always look inside to see what the book has to offer."

Up and coming geographers visit Heatherton

THE St Cyres School geography department took a group of 55 year-9 pupils to Heatherton Activity Park, Tenby last month.

The aim of the visit was for pupils to assess the impact of tourism on a rural location.

Pupils completed a range of different activities including archery, crazy golf, go-karting and trying the new 40m zip wire.

"A great day was had by all and the trip will provide pupils with a useful case study," a school spokesperson said.

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PENARTH TO HONOUR ITS ROYAL CORP

ON Saturday, March 17, Penarth Town Council will be honouring 580 (Glamorgan) Transport Squadron Royal Logistic Corps (Volunteers) with the freedom of the town.

The town and the Territorial Army (TA) have a long association that was first recognised on March 7, 1966, when 532 Squadron Royal Corp of Transport marched through the town to receive a scroll of adoption from the then Chairman of Penarth Urban District Council, Coun John Kreiger, JP.

In 1967, the Territorial Army was reorganised and 532 Squadron was reformed as D Troop 223 Squadron.

On March 21, 1987, a service and commemoration of the 21st anniversary of the adoption of the TA by the town was held at Trinity Methodist Church, the service was preceded by a parade by D Troop from Lower Glebe Street.

As part of the service, two identical scrolls commemorating the anniversary were exchanged and the town's scroll can be seen in the Council Chamber at West House.

A council spokeswoman said: "In April 1993, D Troop was disbanded and 580 Transport Squadron was formed. The Squadron can be proud of its achievements – it has deployed its personnel on operations with the UN and NATO in the Balkans, Iraq and more recently Afghanistan and Cyprus."

In recent years, legislation has been introduced that now permits a town council to confer the honour of freedom of the town and the Council has decided to reaffirm the association in this way.

On the morning of Saturday, March 17, 580 Squadron will march from Lower Glebe Street to All Saints Church, Victoria Square, where a service of commemoration will be held. During the service, new scrolls will be exchanged.

The parade will consist of approxi-

mately 80 service personnel who will assemble in Lower Glebe Street ready to march at 11am. The Parade will then pass along Windsor Road (to the town centre roundabout), Stanwell Road, Victoria Avenue to All Saints Church.

After the service, the troops will march with band playing, bayonets fixed and colours flying, back along Victoria Avenue, Stanwell Road, Victoria Road, where the parade will fall out.

Lower Glebe Street will be closed to traffic that morning between 7am and 11.30am at the latest, to allow the parade to assemble.

The Town Mayor, Coun Anthony Ernest, said: "This is a historic first for Penarth, as we have never previously been able to award Freedom of the Town to an individual or organisation."

"I am delighted that we have decided to confer this singular honour on 580 Squadron, who are the successors to several Army units that have made Penarth their base since before World War II. We are proud to welcome 580 as honorary citizens of our town."

The Commanding Officer of the Welsh Transport Regiment RLC(V), Lieutenant Colonel Dave Allen MBE, said: "The historic links between the Army and Penarth go back centuries and for 580 Squadron, an almost 50 year association with many soldiers from the town having joined the Squadron, or its predecessor 532 Squadron, over the years."

"We are humbled and proud to mark the relationship with a Freedom Parade through the town centre. We cherish the support from the town to all our tasks, including operations, and it will be an honour to parade in front of the people of Penarth who support us so fervently."

"Units are seldom privileged to be given such an honour by their local town and we look forward to marching proudly to thank the local families and community for the support of our servicemen and for the enduring care of veterans after their service".

Sisters win prestigious chess trophies

Howell's Junior School in Cardiff was one of eight schools from across the country to compete in the Welsh Girls' Junior Chess Championships at Inglefield House, Monmouth, and came away with six of the eight trophies on offer.

Hosted by the Haberdashers' Monmouth School for Girls Junior Department, the event recorded a very high number of entries. The eight girls from Howell's Junior School

played a full day of chess in the various age categories.

The under-8s was won by Venetia Sivarajasingam, with classmate Eloise Rathbone-Jones in second place. The under-9s was a closely-fought section, and two girls from Howell's shared second place: Neya Govindaraj & Emily Wang.

The under-10s was the biggest section and Shayanna Sivarajasingam recovered from a first round setback to win the first place trophy – a rare achievement of two sisters being crowned

Welsh Champions at the same time.

In third place was Jessica Jukes, with Isabelle Williams just a point behind.

In the under-11s, there was another solid display from Akanksha Saxena in a tough section.

Shayana Sivarajasingam said of the experience: "Chess helps you learn new things, to look and think. You can play people that you haven't met before."

"I have won around 10 trophies and am enjoying the competition."



Sisters Venetia and Shayana with their chess trophies from the Welsh Championships.

TELL US YOUR NEWS!

Email your news and other items of community interest to gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk or write to the address given on page 2.

Vale MP joins fight against turbines

ALUN CAIRNS MP has joined a campaign against 'inefficient and intermittent'

onshore wind turbines.

He has joined with 105 other MPs from the four largest political

parties represented in the House of Commons and written to the Prime Minister, urging a reduction in the amount of subsidy given to onshore wind turbines.

The joint letter also asks for amendments to be made to the National Planning Policy Framework to help protect the rural landscape and heritage sites across the country.

It also asks for the Planning Inspectorate to be told that these factors, as well as the views of local residents, are to be given more weight in their decisions to counter-balance recent decisions which have given more weight to regional, national and European renewable energy targets.

Alun Cairns said: "I'm delighted to be part of this campaign. Not only is onshore wind production inefficient and intermittent, it would also increase the price of energy bills to every home and business across the Vale."

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£980,000 grant will boost support for Vale elderly

AGE Concern Cardiff and Vale have announced that their Safeguarding Older People project across south-east Wales has received a £980,000 boost – as part of a Big Lottery Fund windfall.

The funds will be

dedicated to helping older people speak up for themselves and take control of their lives.

Big Lottery Fund Wales committee member and chair of the AdvantAGE Programme committee, Fran Targett, said: "Wales has a higher proportion of older people over 50 than any other country in the UK.

"Many older people view ageing as an opportunity and an exciting new life chapter. For others, however, older age brings challenges which, without support, can be daunting and lead to social isolation and loneliness."

Mrs Heath, aged 80, was recently supported by an Age Concern advocate to move to more suitable accommodation. She had been living in a care home, but

felt that she was able to be much more independent and wanted a chance to try living on her own again. The advocate found accommodation within an extra care scheme, and also supported her through the many stages involved in the move.

Mrs Heath said: "I can't thank them enough for all they have done for me. I just couldn't have done all this by myself."

Jeff Hawkins, chief officer of Age Concern Cardiff, said: "The Safeguarding Older People Project will provide essential advocacy services that are absolutely vital to ensure that vulnerable older people receive justice and have a say on matters that affect them."

Across Wales, the Big Lottery Fund grant will create employment for 20 advocacy case workers who will support almost 6,000 older people over the next three years.

Three regional partnerships will manage the projects in their area of Wales. The regional projects will deliver

their services differently to make sure they provide the most suitable service for their local population.

Some of the projects will provide group support while others will offer one-to-one assistance for individuals. Some of the projects will support older people in care homes while others will serve people living in their community. In addition, some of the projects will focus on supporting people with particular health problems.

For further information about the Big Lottery Fund and its open programmes please visit www.biglotteryfund.org.uk and use the 'Wales' specific search facility. For more information about your local advocacy service provided by Age Concern Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan, call 02920 683683, or visit www.age-concern-cardiff.org.uk.

Tell us all about it!
Email your news to us at:
gemeditorial@tindle-news.co.uk

Sophie's success illustrates importance of apprenticeships

THE Vale Council is celebrating the success of its apprenticeship scheme as one of its star recruits, Sophie Knight, prepares to qualify as a plumber.

As preparations continue for this year's National Apprenticeship Week, from February 6 to 10, the Vale council is keen to show its success in preparing young people for work in carpentry, plumbing, electrical, bricklaying mechanics and electrical work.

The council runs a successful 'Craft Apprenticeship' scheme in partnership with Cardiff & Vale College and Careers Wales, which has so far helped 16 young people into trades.

There is also a successful Foundation Modern Apprenticeship scheme for administrative apprentices, which this year has seen 18 people go through its books. Five are still being trained by the council, eight have secured employment elsewhere and two left to go into full time education.

The building services department has been recruiting apprentices since 2004, and offers



ABOVE: Sophie Knight

two training placements through the grant-funded Modern Apprenticeship Scheme.

Its purpose is to provide an opportunity for prospective craft apprentices from the Vale who have completed their foundation year learning about a trade at a Vale-based college.

The best two candidates are interviewed and taken on by the Vale Council as apprentices, in a scheme run by the Vale of Glamorgan Training Association.

The council currently has three apprentices: a carpenter, electrician and plumber.

Sophie Knight, the female apprentice plumber, has successfully been training with private contractors and partners to gain specialist gas installation and servicing experience as part of her NVQ portfolio.

The leader of the council, Gordon Kemp, said: "We are keen to help as many young people as possible in getting into

the working world.

"Sophie is one of the many success stories to have come under the stewardship of the Vale Council and its partners and we wish her and all our other protégés every success in the future in gaining employment or training."

Ever since she was a little girl, Sophie said she wanted to be a plumber, just like her grandfather. "My Gramps made me want to be a plumber. When he passed away seven years ago, I thought I would go for it."

Sophie's grandfather, Colin Reynolds, worked as a plumber for the Vale council for many years and was well remembered by his colleagues, one of whom mentored Sophie.

Sophie added: "But it's thanks to my tutors that I've been able to finish college. If you don't understand anything, they will take time out of their day to help."

COWBRIDGE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

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SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

An open evening for students considering taking their AS/A2 Level studies or L3 BTEC courses will be held on **Tuesday, 21 February** between 4.30 pm and 6.30 pm

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL (HOLTON ROAD, BARRY) (PROHIBITION OF RIGHT HAND TURN) ORDER 2012

The Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under Sections 1, 2 and 92 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended), and of all other enabling powers intends in not less than twenty one days from the date of this Notice to make an Order the general effect of which is as described in the schedule below:

Full details of the proposals, to include the proposed Order and plan no 1551-101 may be inspected at the Vale of Glamorgan Council at the address shown below during normal office hours and any objections you may have to this proposal must be submitted to the Head of Visible Services (Ref. IF673) in writing by 2nd March 2012 and must contain the grounds upon which you object.

Persons objecting to the proposed Order are advised that in view of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 this Council is legally obliged to make any comments received in response to the proposed Order open to public inspection.

SCHEDULE

**Make New Order
Prohibition of Right Turn
Holton Road, Barry**

No person shall, except upon the direction or with the permission of a Police Constable in uniform or of a Traffic Warden, cause or permit a vehicle proceeding south-west along Holton Road to make a right-turn maneuver onto Buttrills Road, Barry.

Dated this 9th day of February 2012

M E Punter
Head of Visible Services, Vale of Glamorgan Council,
The Alps, Wenvoe, CF5 6AA



CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG 2012 GORCHYMYN (GWAHARDD TROI I'R DDE) (HOLTON ROAD, Y BARRI)

Bydd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, gan arfer ei bwerau o dan adrannau 1, 2 a 92 o Ddeddf Rheoli Traffig 1984 (ddwygiedig), a phob p_er galluogi arall, yn gwneud Gorchymyn ymhen o leiaf un diwrnod ar hugain ar ôl dyddiad yr Hysbysiad hwn, i'r diben cyffredinol a nodwyd yn yr Atodlen isod:

Cewch weld y cynigion llawn, gan gynnwys y Gorchymyn arfaethedig a chynllun 1551-101 yng Nghyngor Bro Morgannwg yn y cyfeiriad isod yn ystod oriau swyddfa arferol. Dylech gyfeirio unrhyw wrthwynebiad sydd gennych i'w cynnig at Bennaeith Gwasanaethau Gweladwy (Cyf. IF 673) ar furl llythyr erbyn 2 Mawrth 2012, gan egluro'ch rhesymau dros ei wrthwynebu.

Os oes gennych wrthwynebiad i'r Gorchymyn, cofiwch fod gan y cyhoedd hawl o dan Ddeddf Llywodraeth Leol (Hawl i Wybodaeth) 1985 i weld unrhyw sylwadau sy'n cael eu gwneud, a bod dyletswydd gyfreithiol ar y cyngor i ddarparu ar gyfer hynny

ATODLEN

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Dyddiedig 9 Chwefror 2012

M. E. Punter
Pennaeith Gwasanaethau Gweladwy
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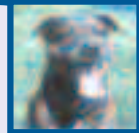
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'Panic over legal development plan'

WHEN I first read Coun Margaret Randall's letter in your last issue, as chairman of the Dinas Powys Welsh

Conservatives, I was initially troubled that the Conservative-led Vale of Glamorgan Council could have behaved in such a cavalier fashion.

When I made further enquiries, however, I found that her version of events, as is so often the case with Plaid electioneering, was very far from the whole story.

It appears that the draft Local Development

Plan (LDP) went public on December 23, 2011, available to everyone as part of the cabinet papers.

The plan was then discussed at cabinet level on January 4, where it was agreed that the draft document should be put forward for approval to the full council on Wednesday, January 25.

The report was also considered by the Planning Committee on January 5 and the Economy and Environment Scrutiny on January 17.

As our elected representatives, I am disappointed that our Plaid councillors don't seem to scrutinise cabinet papers on our behalf.

Still, the paper was then circulated in the normal way as all other council documents.

It also seems that Coun Randall is panicking prematurely, as the draft LDP will now go through a six-week period of consultation with all concerned parties (some wanting less development and some wanting more across the whole county) leading to an amended draft document being issued in the autumn of this year.

This amended document will go before the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) for scrutiny by an inspector. The document will be subject to an inquiry and possibly formal enquiries over some

aspects that are deemed to be controversial. It will not be until this time next year that the draft LDP is finalised.

This is the planning officer's first stab at the development plan for the period up to 2026.

It is also worth pointing out that the Vale of Glamorgan Council is bound by WAG planning policy. WAG has indicated that the Vale of Glamorgan should find (have built) near 12,000 new houses by 2026.

The WAG has also decreed that a significant proportion should be social housing, a stipulation that makes such projects extremely unattractive to prospective developers. The relevance of this to Coun

Randall's anguished letter is that all the Vale of Glamorgan Council is doing is complying with Plaid/Labour policy laid out by those two parties during the 2007-2011 coalition administration of the WAG.

Furthermore, the housing assessment and obligations were set by Plaid's housing Minister, Jocelyn Davies AM.

Thankfully, Coun Randall was wrong about the Vale Council and I plan to play my full part in influencing the draft plan to suit the needs of Dinas Powys.

Andy Robertson, Chairman, Dinas Powys Welsh Conservatives

'BREW FOR A FEW' AT THE SENEDD



THE Cardiff South and Penarth Assembly Member, Vaughan Gething, recently hosted a 'Brew for the Few' coffee morning at the Senedd in Cardiff Bay (above) in aid of the RAF Association's Wings Appeal.

Members of Penarth and other local RAFA branches enjoyed the coffee morning and were thanked for attending and supporting the event, by Vaughan Gething and Tich Taylor, the Penarth branch secretary.

Vale badminton players into the national finals

TWO schools from the Vale of Glamorgan have made it through to the finals of a national badminton competition, organised in partnership by the innovative 5x60 scheme and Badminton Wales.

After taking on all-comers from across south east Wales in a regional tournament, the boys from Cowbridge Comprehensive School topped their group and

won a semi final match before beating Ysgol Gyfun Garth Olwg to secure their place at the national competition in Newtown next month.

They will be joined by the girls from Stanwell School, Penarth who also won their group and semi-final, before qualifying as runners-up after being narrowly beaten by John Beddoes Secondary School.

The competition has featured year 7 and 8 pupils whose talents were unearthed during lunchtime and after-school sports sessions

run by the 5x60 scheme, which encourages secondary school pupils to exercise for at least 60 minutes, five days a week.

The 5x60 scheme is a Sport Wales initiative that is run locally by the Vale of Glamorgan Council's sports and play development team. As it is Olympic year, badminton is one of four key sports that the scheme is serving up to tempt teenagers into playing in the Vale of Glamorgan during 2012, along with table tennis, basketball, and girls' football."



The girls from Stanwell School secured a finals place.

POT holes in the Colhugh Street area were discussed by Coun John Clifford and Ken Evans of the Highways Department before Christmas and all holes were identified by putting yellow paint around the areas.

Coun Clifford said: "I was assured that all the work would be completed by the end of February 2012."



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GIs IN PORTHKERRY PARK:

'The Americans always seemed to win the battles over local girls!'

I WAS contacted recently by GEM reader Vic Baker in response to my request for information regarding the American troops in the Vale during World War II (WW2).

Vic lived in the last house in Oxford Street during WW2. He recalls seeing the British troops setting up canisters which acted as a deterrent to enemy air raids by enveloping the skies above Barry in foul-smelling black smoke.

One night a stick of German bombs fell nearby.

A bomb fell on number 2 Cambridge Street, the home of the Baxter family. Tom Baxter was in his bedroom when the bomb struck and was buried under debris for more than two hours before being rescued. He died shortly afterwards.

His wife Brenda was seriously injured and she died of her wounds the following month.

On the 'Tump' at the Knap was a dummy fort with guns made of wood and this was used as a decoy to lure away German bombers from the real fort on Nell's

Point.

At the start of the war, in the large field in Porthkerry, concrete triangles were installed all over the grass to stop German gliders coming down and to act as tank traps. The viaduct was perceived as a target as trains carrying aircraft parts passed over it on their way to Saint Athan. One landline missed the viaduct by 100 yards. Another one landed near the beach, causing an enormous hole. This soon flooded and was used by Vic and his friends as a swimming pool.

At the bottom of the Golden Stairs in Porthkerry was a pill box with machine guns. The remains of this can still be seen.

The British soldiers built a canal going from the stream at the bottom of the Golden Stairs across to the cliffs on the other side of the park.

It was about 15-20 ft across and several feet deep. Children used to build rafts out of discarded timber and sail on it.

The first time Vic saw a Thompson sub-machine gun, or 'Tommy Gun', was when he truanted from

school to spy on the troops. He saw commandos crawling along ditches with knives in their mouths. They would lie on barbed wire and others would scramble over them.

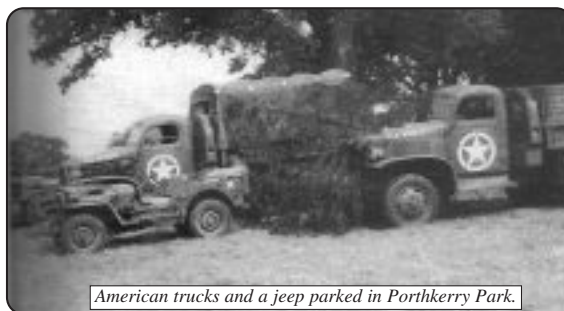
When the Americans arrived in 1942 they removed the concrete triangles and used the large field as a parking area for their GMC trucks. Vic remembers seeing nearly 1,000 of them parked there. The whole field seemed full of trucks and GIs.

This was the first time he had seen so many black men. There were hundreds of drivers and mechanics stationed in the field and they would play poker on blankets spread out on the ground.

The local children would sneak inside the trucks and take sweets from the cabs. Vic crept inside one truck and found it to be loaded with tins of fruit juice.

At that time in the war he was lucky if he had a glass of lemonade with his Sunday lunch so this was a real find. His grandfather's shed was full of fruit juice when he had finished liberating it!

The Americans wanted guards for their trucks so they built a



American trucks and a jeep parked in Porthkerry Park.

hut on the right-hand-side of the first gate into the park. British soldiers huddled around a pot-bellied stove inside as they had no electricity. They carried out their ablutions in the ponds at the bottom of the hill into Porthkerry.

One day Vic and his mother went looking for mushrooms in Porthkerry near the top of the viaduct and saw a freak of nature - the whole field was white with mushrooms.

By the time they had finished he and his mother had collected 80lbs. At this time mushrooms were a shilling (5p) a pound, so they sold most of them and earned the equivalent of two weeks of his father's wages!

His mother and he went again the following day but there were no mushrooms to be seen. Then, Vic saw a white shape in the corner of the field and rushed towards it.

He picked a mushroom weighing a pound and three quarters and his story was featured in the local press at the time.

When he was 16, he went to the Savoy and the Unity Hall to the dances. These dance halls were a magnet for black soldiers as they were unable to go to these places in America because of the colour bar.

They spent the evening dancing with the local white girls. Vic recalls seeing quite a lot of fights between American servicemen

and sailors.

The Americans always seemed to win! He stressed that the Barry populace always seemed to be happy that the Americans were here.

The 'Barry at War' local history group is seeking to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the arrival of the American troops in the area in 1942 by staging a 'War-time Weekend' event on Barry Waterfront and Barry Island Station on June 16-17.

If any readers have stories about the American troops in the area during WW2 and would be willing to share them in preparation for our event, telephone 07708 255295.

Dr Jonathan Hicks



ABOVE: Vic Baker with his father Albert and his mushroom find.

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The GEM is proud to be an official partner of the 2012 National Eisteddfod in the Vale of Glamorgan
Mae'r GEM yn falch o fod yn un o bartneriaid swyddogol Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Bro Morgannwg, 2012

Eisteddfod launches marketing tour

OVER the next few weeks and months, the National Eisteddfod will be travelling around the Vale – the location of this year's festival.

The aim is to visit communities across the area, distributing information and telling local people about the Eisteddfod, which is held on the old airfield at Llandow, August 4-11.

We'll be travelling around in a shiny red camper van called Dilys, and we want to hear from you if you see Dilys driving around over the next few weeks.

We'll be in the Vale for two days at the end of February and we'll be back in April and June.

In February, we'll be launching the Eisteddfod's concert programme and distributing leaflets and booklets in towns and villages. Dilys will be

back in April, as we celebrate 100 days to go before the start of the Eisteddfod, and in June, we'll be joined by Dilys to launch our famous 'Go Bonkers for Bunting' campaign and our shop window competition for businesses in the Vale, as we celebrate 50 days to go.

We are currently putting together the timetable for these dates at the moment. If you'd like Dilys and the Eisteddfod team to visit your town, village or group, get in touch by sending an email to gwyb@eisteddfod.org.uk or telephone 0845 4090 300.

Dates are listed below. Remember to suggest a time and a clear location when you get in touch;

February 28 – all booked; February 29 – morning slots available; April 26 – morning and afternoon slots available; June 15 – afternoon slots available.

We'll publish details of where we'll be visiting

and when closer to the time. We look forward to seeing you when we'll be out and about in the Vale. Remember to come over and say hello!

For more information about Dilys go to www.van-goch.co.uk
SIONED EDWARDS

DROS yr wythnosau a'r misoedd nesaf bydd yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol yn mynd ar daith eithaf gwahanol o amgylch Bro Morgannwg – dal-gylch y Brifwyl eleni.

Bwriad y daith yw ymweld â chymunedau mewn gwahanol rannau o'r ardal, er mwyn dosbarthu gwybodaeth a siarad gyda thirgion lleol am yr Eisteddfod, a gynhelir ar dir hen faes awyr Llandow, o Awst 4-11.

Byddwn yn teithio mewn camper fan goch

o'r enw Dilys, a rydym yn awyddus i bobl adael i ni wybod os ydych chi'n gweld Dilys o amgylch y Fro dros yr wythnosau nesaf.

Bydd Dilys a'r criw yn crwydro Bro Morgannwg am ddeud-dydd ym mis Chwefror ac yn dychwelyd eto ym mis Ebrill a Mehefin.

Ym mis Chwefror byddwn yn lansio rhaglen gyngherddau'r Eisteddfod ac yn dosbarthu gwybodaeth mewn nifer o ardaloedd. Yna, ym mis Ebrill, bydd Dilys yn dychwelyd i'r Fro i ddathlu mai 100 diwrnod fydd i fynd tan i'r Eisteddfod gychwyn, ac ym Mehefin, bydd Dilys gyda ni i lansio'r ymgyrch arbenig Ffoli ar Fflagiau a'r gystadleuaeth addurno ffinest siop wrth i ni ddathlu 50 diwrnod i fynd.

Rydym yn paratoi amserlen ar hyn o bryd ar gyfer y dyddiau hyn. Os hoffech chi i Dilys a chriw'r Eisteddfod ddod i'ch ardal chi, gadewch i ni wybod drwy anfon



ebost at gwyb@eisteddfod.org.uk neu drwy ffonio 0845 4090 300.

Mae manylion y dyddiadau sydd ar gael isod. Cofiwch awgrymu amser a lleoliad pendant wrth gysylltu.

Chwefror 28 – slotiau'n llawn; Chwefror 29 – slotiau bore ar gael; Ebrill 26 – slotiau bore a phrynhawn ar gael; Mehefin 15 – slotiau prynhawn ar gael.

Edrychwn ymlaen i'ch gweld wrth i ni grwydro Bro Morgannwg. Dewch draw atom i ddweud Hello, a chofiwch Ddilys Dilys!

Am fwy o fanylion am Dilys ewch i www.van-goch.co.uk

SIONED EDWARDS

Barry quiz boosts fundraising for Welsh Eisteddfod

ON February 4, a special quiz was held at the Millennium Hall, Porth y Castell, to raise funds for the National Eisteddfod, to be held at Llandow next August.

About 50 people attended the quiz with 10 teams taking part. Supper was provided for all and the event raised £330 towards the Barry appeal fund.

Barry has been asked to raise the sum of £60,000 towards the cost of the Eisteddfod and we have almost raised £25,000 so far.

We'd like to thank those who attended events for their generosity.

All who attended the quiz said that they had enjoyed this event and look forward to the next quiz on Saturday, March 31 at the same venue.

AR ddydd Chwefror 4 cynhaliwyd Gwis yn Neuadd Sant Ffrancis, Neuadd y Milenniwm, er mwyn codi

arian ar gyfer Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Bro Morgannwg 2012. Daeth bron hanner cant o bobl i'r neuadd gyda deg tîm yn cymryd rhan yn y Cwis.

Cafodd pawb swper ar hanner amser a codwyd y swm o £330 tuag at ein hapêl yn y Barry. Y nôd ar ein cyfer yw £60,000 erbyn mis Awst ac rydym yn barod wedi codi bron £25,000.

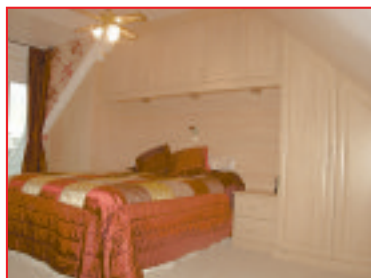
Hoffem ddiolch yn fawr i bawb sydd wedi dod i'r ddigwyddiadau dros y misoedd diwethaf i'n cynorthwyo i godi'r swm yma.

Roedd pawb a ddaeth i'r Cwis wedi mwynhau'r noson yn fawr ac yn edrych ymlaen at yr un nesaf a fydd yn digwydd Nos Sadwrn, Mawrth 31 yn Neuadd y Mileniwm unwaith eto.

Heulwen Cooper, Barry, Local Treasurer for the Appeal Fund

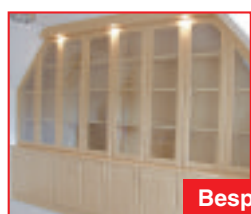


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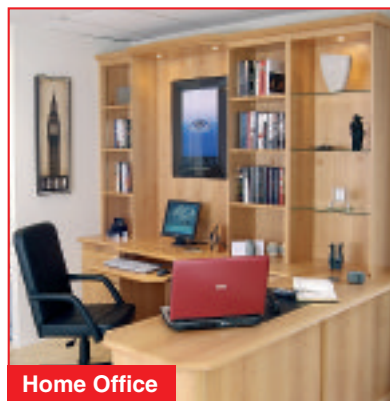


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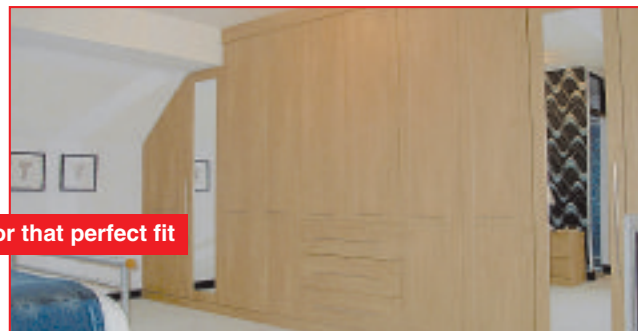


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Out and About with The GEM

Lucky GEM winners

THE winners of our recent Cardooc competition were: Mrs Anita Clarke, Barry; Mrs Meryl Davies, Porthcawl; Miss C Williams, Cefn Glas; Mr Lyndon Thomas, Pyle; Mrs Margaret Launder, Cowbridge; Mrs C L Breilly, Brackla; Bridget Gough, Porthcawl; Nadine Adams, Dinas Powys; Barbara Entwistle, Barry;

Morgan Fenton, Pontyclun; Miss E A James, Ogmore Vale; Mrs Mace, Llanbethery; Olive Rees, Maesteg; Alice E Phillips, Penarth; Mrs Esme Spencer, Porthcawl.
Congratulations to you all, and keep reading for more great GEM competitions!

PACT meetings

BUTTRILLS PACT, at 6.30pm on Thursday, February 9 at the Philip John Community Room, Barry Library, Tynwydd Road.

DYFAN and GIBBNSDOWN joint PACT, between 12 noon and 2pm, Monday, February 20 at Colcot Community Centre, Keates Way, Barry.

VALE PACT

LLANDOW/EWENNY PACT, on Wednesday, February 15, 7pm at Eweny Village Hall.

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WHAT'S ON AND WHERE...

Valeways walks

THURSDAY, February 9 at 10.30am, 'Fine Views'. Meet at the car park next to Mace General Store, St Brides Major.

Cadoc meeting

THE Cadoc Conservative candidates are holding a coffee morning to meet residents on Saturday, February 11 at 10.30am-12 noon at the Glenbrook Inn, Coldbrook, with Coun Gordon Kemp (Leader of the Vale Council) and Andrew R T Davies (Conservative group leader in the National Assembly).

Dinas Powys in postcards

THE next meeting of Dinas Powys Local History Society will be held on Tuesday, February 14, at 7.30pm in Kynance Hall.

There will be an illustrated lecture by Mike Baker on 'Dinas Powys in Old Picture Postcards'.

An administrative fee of £2 for non-members and £1.50 for members will be charged. All are very welcome to attend. Enquiries to Jeff Childs

(02920 513615).

All Saints' Lent lunches

ANNUAL Lent lunches will begin again in All Saints' Church Hall, Park Road, Barry, every Thursday from February 23 until Thursday, March 29. They take place for six weeks from 12 noon until 1.30pm.

Tickets at the door are £4 each, including soup, crusty bread and cheese, with tea or coffee and a free raffle. All proceeds are for the Kiyombe Cow Scheme. Everyone welcome.

Llanrcarfan prize bingo

THERE will be a 'Prize Bingo tournament' at Llanrcarfan Village Hall on Saturday, February 25 in aid of the Cerys Potter Foundation.

Tickets will be £5 each which includes a soup supper and one 10-game bingo book. Extra books are available at £1.

There will be a bar available and the evening will commence at 7.30pm. Tickets are available from Julie (01446 781271) and Graham and Kay (01446 781080).

Table top sale

THERE will be an Eisteddfod 2012 fundraiser on Sunday, February 26 in the Llantion Hall, Llantwit Major.

Places are restricted, so booking is essential. Sellers 8am, and buyers 9am-1pm. Sellers will be asked for a £5 donation to the Eisteddfod. Contact Ros Lewis on 01446 793530, or rlewis.cardiff@bushinternet.com.

Talk in aid of organ appeal

THE All Saint's Church organ appeal will benefit from a talk and display 'More than just Names' by Dr Jonathan Hicks.

He will take a fascinating look at the stories behind the men on the War Memorials in the church on Tuesday, March 13 at All Saint's Church, Barry (7pm-8.30pm). Tickets £3, available from church wardens and fundraising committee. All proceeds to the organ fund.

Indo-Celtic music

A multi-talented duo whose music has been described by Robert Plant as "pure beauty through simplicity", will be bringing their unique Indo-Celtic sound to Cowbridge next month.

Robin and Bina Williamson will perform a variety of original, traditional and spiritual folk music on harp bowed psaltery dulcimer and other instruments, in the minstrel room above the Little Shop of Calm, at 8pm on March 24. info@littleshopofcalm.com

Upside down rainbow!



GEM READER Tamsin Richards writes: "My son and I saw this upside down rainbow on Saturday January 28 at 1.30pm above our cottage in Llanmaes."

Barrivale Bridge Club recruits

LATEST results from Barrivale:

January 31: First, Tim Barsby and Noelle Bond, 60.32 per cent; second, Huw Thomas and Celia Thomas, 57.94; third, Alan Jones and Lyn Matthews, 54.76.

Huw and Celia won on handicap. New members are welcome at Barrivale, if you would like to join, telephone 01446 733425 or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm. MB

A plea to all dog walkers

WE would be grateful if you could remind walkers and ramblers in your readership of the first rule of the countryside and close all gates behind them.

Recently, a group of walkers used a footpath around our field containing a flock of sheep.

Instead of using the footpath style provided, they used the field gate and failed to close it behind them.

This careless act could have caused very serious problems. (Name and address supplied)

<p>MONDAY Barry 4.30 & 6.30pm Brynsion Hall, Junction of Court Road & Llanover Street Lorraine - 01446 407002 Rhoose - 6.30pm Celtic Way Community Centre, Celtic Way Helen - 01446 750738 Penarth 5.30pm & 7.30pm Elfed Avenue Methodist Church, Elfed Road Sarah - 07525 852288</p> <p>TUESDAY Barry - 5.45pm Market Street Social Club Upstairs Function Room Joanne - 01446 404897 Barry - 4.30pm St. Davids Methodist Church, Church Hall, Winston Road Annamrie - 01446 736534 Llantwit Major 4.45 & 6.45pm The Old School Wine Street Helen - 01446 750738 Sully - 6.30pm The Old School South Road Niki - 01446 740394</p>	<p>WEDNESDAY Barry 4.45 & 6.45pm St. Francis Millennium Centre, Park Road, Porth-y-Castell Annamrie - 01446 736534 Cardiff - 6.00pm All Welcome 8.00pm MEN ONLY Rob - 07708 941279 Cophen Hotel, Culverhouse Cross, Cardiff Barry - 6.00pm Cadroxton Methodist Church Church Road Joanne - 01446 404897 Cowbridge - 6.00pm Comprehensive Aberthorn Road Simone - 02920 599001 Penarth 9.30am & 11.45am All Saints Church Hall Victoria Square Tracy - 07894 275853 Penarth 5.00pm & 7.00pm All Saints Church Hall Victoria Square Tracy - 07894 275853</p>	<p>THURSDAY Cowbridge - 10.00am Cowbridge Rugby Club Diane - 02920 551206 Barry - 6.00pm Highlight Park Community Centre, Barry Nia - 07793 885581 Dinas Powys - 6.30pm The Cabin by swimming pool, Hebron Hall Sarah - 07525852288 Barry - 10.15am St Helen's Church Hall Wyndham Street Niki - 01446 740394</p>
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Special project!

SPECIAL Olympics Bridgend DFC have launched a new incentive in the area, in which disabled players offer to tidy your garden, or wash your car, for a donation.

A spokesperson explained: 'The idea came from one of the lady players, who

thought it would be a great idea to promote the team and raise money at the same time.

"If you are interested in having any small jobs done around your garden, call 07817929549.

"All money collected will help to send our team to Spain to play in the Catalan Cup from June 2-7 and will be gratefully appreciated".

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number 708.

● £2,000: 599923.
● The rollover, which now stands at £3,500, was not won this week.

● £10: 274881, 842089, 381852, 203210, 113264, 656279, 452405, 144745, 578789, 724867, 542334, 375261, 898827, 544035, 238783, 285053, 514358, 504429, 617024, 492148.

● £5: 677233, 736442, 717678, 706214, 864136, 689115, 696808, 292836, 761162, 216995, 985391, 239105, 754066, 698335, 331451, 376747, 196933, 179825, 683868, 879693, 539948, 382735, 433657, 151205, 390043, 370484, 189625, 962195, 890045, 200721, 813479, 574915, 295763, 831201, 765579, 411774, 834457, 597519, 197486, 859365, 239445, 423982, 809861, 218526, 542657, 475096, 345509, 708200, 284452, 427605, 663812, 137946, 290790, 211149, 107310, 375831, 666589, 788872, 160294, 399521.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

Regional AM Walks a Mile in a blind person's shoes



Cathryn Stephenson, mobility instructor for Guide Dogs and Andrew RT Davies, AM.

THE hazards blind people face while walking in the street with guide dogs, was experienced at first hand recently, by Andrew R T Davies, Assembly member for south Wales central.

He walked along Albany Road, Cardiff, accompanied by Cathryn Stephenson, a mobility instructor for Guide Dogs, Sue Jackson, a rehab officer for Cardiff Council and Mark Evans, a local guide dog owner.

The Guide Dogs Cymru Walk a Mile in My Shoes campaign aims to raise awareness of the obstacles and challenges blind and partially sighted people face every day as they

go out and about in our town centres. The hazards they face often include tables and chairs on pavements outside cafes, badly designed pedestrian crossings and poorly parked cars that block the pavement.

The regional AM reported: "I found the walk very illuminating. Firstly, because I realised the impact of the uneven pavements, which made it difficult to navigate.

"Secondly, I realised how much of an obstacle street furniture can be for blind and partially-sighted people.

"Finally, I realised the level of support that is out there for people in Wales with sight loss and that their sight loss should not prevent them from living their lives to the full."

Paddington Bear gift



Shop manager Alan Drury with the drawing.

DEVASTATED after an original Paddington Bear was stolen from one of Ty Hafan's Welsh charity shops, the manager, Alan Drury, was staggered to receive an original drawing of the famous bear from none other than the illustrator of the legendary Paddington books - R W Alley.

A spokeswoman for the Sully-based charity explained: "The artist, who lives in the USA, had picked up the story about the stolen bear via his Google alert, and obviously thought he could help to put matters right by producing one of his famous ink and watercolour masterpieces to send to Ty Hafan."

Mr Drury added: "It is an extremely kind and generous gesture by Mr Alley and I have contacted him to thank him on behalf of all the families and staff of Ty Hafan."

Bryn Hafren celebrates 90 years of Urdd

BRYN Hafren Comprehensive school was full of red, white and green recently, as pupils and staff dressed up in national colours to celebrate the Urdd's 90th birthday.

Activities were organised by the school's Welsh department so pupils could learn more about the history and work of Urdd Gobaith Cymru.

The biggest event was a party in the school hall at lunchtime, where pupils enjoyed games with a parachute and a slice of birthday cake.

Year-8 pupils, who attend the school's extra curricular Welsh club, also raffled a Mr Urdd cake which raised much-needed funds for the Daniel Downey Cwtch appeal.

The school would like to thank the Urdd's Llio Angharad Owen-Taylor for her support in making the day such a success.

NEWS FROM ST CYRES SCHOOL

Students show that they have singing talent!

TWO students at St Cyres School have been named as finalists in the Welsh heat of the national singing competition, 'The Next Brit Thing'.

This is a major achievement for the girls as the competition was open to all 11-19 year-olds and only 10 youngsters have made it to the Welsh final. The talented singers are Grace Hartrey and Elena Jamieson.

A spokesperson said: "The school is very aware of the enormous talent possessed by the two singers from previous occasions, including Elena's powerful performance in the school's successful version of *We Will Rock You* in December and Grace's rendition at the Sixth Form Awards Evening in January.

"Both Elena and Grace have wowed audiences in school and out of school many times, but reaching the final of this prestigious competition is a new high."

The Welsh final of *The Next Brit Thing* will be held at Cardiff High on February 13.

Date with Marinsky Opera

REBEKAH West, a year-7 pupil at St Cyres, has recently completed a successful run of performances in the UK tour of *Oliver!*

The tour finished at the Wales Millennium Centre, where Rebekah will again be performing on April 1.

This time, the talented Rebekah will be singing with Only Kids Aloud, a national children's choir set up by



Elena Jamieson.



Grace Hartrey.

Tim Rhys Evans of Only Men Aloud. Rebekah's choir will be performing with the Marinsky Opera and will potentially be visiting Russia in June.

Reuel to tour India
YEAR-11 pupil, Reuel Bertram, will be touring India this April with the hip-hop dance troupe Jukebox.

Reuel enjoyed national attention last year when the Jukebox Juniors reached the final of TV talent show 'Got to Dance'.

Reuel puts his success down to hard work and he certainly deserves his dancing success for the dedication he has shown.

Theron and Oswalt impress in Young Adult

SINCE achieving huge success with *Junio*, the film's director, Jason Reitman, and writer, Diablo Cody, have experienced different fortunes.

While the former found even more success with *Up In The Air* landing critical acclaim and awards recognition, the latter saw her hotly-tipped *Jennifer's Body* dismissed as generic rubbish.

However, the two have teamed up again with *Young Adult*. It tells the story of Mavis (Charlize Theron), a writer of a once-successful 'young adult' series of books who returns to her hometown in a bid to win back her high school sweetheart

Buddy (Patrick Wilson), who is now married and a father. Teaming up with school outcast Matt (Patton Oswalt), will Mavis break up Buddy's family in order to get what she wants?

Since landing her Oscar for *Monster*, Charlize Theron has managed to balance worthy fare with the odd mega-budget movie. However, if anyone were to dismiss her Oscar win as a triumph of prosthetics over acting ability, then *Young Adult* should change that, the actress wonderfully mesmerising in a film which is a low-key, muted delight.

Theron has a difficult task on her hands here, having to take a character who on the page is reprehensible and deeply unlikeable, and try and varnish her with the ability to garner, at least,

the audience's understanding of her motives.

She achieves this with aplomb, the actress refusing to tone down the character in any way, yet managing fleeting moments where she allows us to see behind the bitter facade and into the troubled mind of Mavis.

It takes no little skill to do this, and this is arguably Theron's best performance to date, playing the comedy and the tragedy skilfully. It is a turn that requires no small amount of nuance and her performance anchors the film both in terms of the tone but also the performances elsewhere.

The underrated Wilson is impressive as the high school sweetheart Mavis let go of, a man happy with his new life, but with the slightest hint that Mavis' return could provide a fresh spark, his seeming non-complicity again masquerading the possibility that he may fall under Mavis' spell.

The real breakout of the film however is Patton Oswalt, whose voice may be remembered from *Ratatouille*, but whose performances in the likes of *Balls Of Fury* will probably not.

However, Oswalt's turn here is one of incredible humour and pathos, the character given a touching and troubling back-story that Oswalt mines, much like Theron, for both comedy and tragedy.

The sharpest written character, the performance stands out, especially given Oswalt's low-key past. It's fair to say it's unlikely he'll be filling the cast list of the likes of *Failure To Launch* anymore, the comedian showing an impressive and hitherto unseen range.

Jason Reitman's hot streak in the director's chair continues here, the film lacking the pop culture bang of *Junio*, but also the strait-laced awards friendly feel of *Up In The Air*. *Young Adult* feels akin to his directorial debut, *Thank You For Smoking*, in terms of its unlikely protagonist and off-key subject matter.

Using the muted visuals and concentrating on story and performance, Reitman's direction is muted but assured, the director showing a confidence in his ability without feeling the urge to be overtly showy or flashy. The control and conviction of his direction makes for an engaging work.

Shorn of the teen speak of *Junio* and *Jennifer's Body*, Diablo Cody's script is macabre and playful, her maturest work yet that isn't afraid of going to some dark places, yet tempering them with moments of hilarity and reality that keep the film grounded.

While the characters are all well written, Cody's third act reveal sits particularly well,

SCREEN TALK



by GARETH JAMIESON

giving Theron's character the modicum of sympathy the performance needs.

Certainly the low-key feel of the film, and the woozy pace may not suit all audiences, and neither will its off-kilter subject matter, but take a chance on *Young Adult* and you will be well rewarded with a delightful and darkly playful film.

VERDICT - A refreshingly bitter tale, *Young Adult* bristles with sharp characters and sharper dialogue, and is well directed by Jason Reitman. Charlize Theron and Patton Oswalt bring Diablo Cody's characters to rich life in an effort that makes for a satisfying low-key piece of work. Recommended.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: Thank You For Smoking (2005), Juno (2007).

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Gas Safe

GAS safe REGISTER

No more 'CORGI' – but gas safety body still offers vital information

MANY Vale residents will remember the gas safety standard agency CORGI – but that has now been superseded by a new body – Gas Safe.

Whatever the name, taking the advice of the safety organisation remains very important – so what is Gas safe recommending?

Be Gas Safe at home. Understand the risks of dangerous gas work and only use a Gas Safe registered engineer.

The Gas Safe Register is the official list of gas engineers who are registered to work safely and legally on gas appliances.

By law, all gas engineers must be on the Gas Safe Register. It has replaced CORGI registration.

We take it for granted that our boilers, cookers and gas fires are safe.

It is only when there is a problem with an appliance that many people take any notice of it at all.

What are the gas safety risks of dangerous gas work?

Dangerous gas work can be deadly.

Badly fitted and poorly serviced appliances can cause the following gas safety risks:

- gas leaks.
- fires.
- explosions.

• carbon monoxide poisoning.

TOP TIPS FOR GAS SAFETY

1/ Only use a Gas Safe registered engineer to fit, fix or service your gas appliances, including your gas boiler; gas fire, gas cooker or hob; central heating system, radiators or your hot water system, if they are connected to either a Natural Gas or LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) supply.

2/ Always check the engineer's Gas Safe Register ID card. All Gas Safe registered engineers carry a Gas Safe Register ID card, with their own unique licence number, showing the type of work they are qualified to do.

You can view our short video to understand what you need to check on the card.

3/ Get your appliances regularly serviced and safety checked every year, or in accordance with your manufacturer's guidelines, by a Gas Safe registered engineer.

Your Gas Safe registered engineer will carry out tests and checks to establish your appliances are operating safely.

Where an appliance or pipework has been installed in an unsafe way, or is operating unsafely and the engineer can not rectify the situation immediately, they will follow the guidance outlined in the Gas Industry Unsafe Situations Procedure (GIUSP) to make the installation safe.

This is the industry accepted document for guiding engineers on dealing with unsafe situations.

The Gas Industry Unsafe Situations Procedure (GIUSP) can be a complex document to understand. Download Gas Safe Register's factsheet to help you understand the procedure that engineers use to assess the safety of your gas appliance.

Another important safety option is to fit an audible carbon monoxide alarm.

This alarm will alert you to the presence of the poisonous gas carbon monoxide, produced by unsafe gas appliances.

If you think there might be a gas leak or notice any signs of carbon monoxide, act fast and follow the same advice as for gas emergencies.

Another important point to note is that more than 65 per cent of UK boilers are condensing, which means they produce waste water, known as condensate, when they create heat.

This is often drained away from the boiler using an external pipe, which can freeze, become blocked and cause the boiler to breakdown, during periods of cold weather.

The advice is: "Call out a Gas Safe engineer, or take out a service contract. Be safe, be warm!"

Gas Safe advice and information is available on www.gassaferegister.co.uk

Inspirational Homes

Could your lawn be like the green at a top golf course?

THIS year, would you like your lawn to look more like a golf green and less like a cabbage patch?

Hannah Stephenson consults an expert – top greenkeeper Graham Royden, of Royal St George's.

"The big difference between the course here

at Royal St George's and garden lawns, is that we use a different type of grass seed and spend literally hundreds of hours tending the turf.

But, that said, a few simple tips can help any gardener achieve near perfect results," he says.

1/ Cut little and often. Never take off more than a third of the

grass blade length, as this will damage the plant. In dry weather, reduce the frequency of cut, raise the mower height and consider leaving the cuttings on the lawn to help feed and shade the grass.

2/ Watering: Watering domestic lawns is a far more contentious issue and depends on local water

availability and any restriction notices that may be in force.

Royden says that keeping moisture in the soil profile on a golf course is important.

3/ Feeding: The grass at Royal St George's is largely fed by an entirely natural product and Royden is a keen advocate of environmentally safe feeding.

He recommends three feeds a year: spring (March to April), summer and autumn (September to October).

It's important to ensure that, if using proprietary feeds, you use them according to the season – as the balance of nutrients for a spring feed is entirely different from that needed in the summer or autumn.

4/ Aeration: Aeration is vitally important because it allows light, moisture and air to reach the growing roots of the grass.

A normal garden fork dug into the lawn to a depth of about 10cm (4in) and about 15cm (6in) apart is ideal, although hollowed tined forks can also be used.

He suggests that the best time for this is in March and again in October.

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Inspirational Homes and Gardens

Happy dogs this winter

AS the cold snap finally arrives, Dogs Trust is reminding pet owners to take extra steps to help their four-legged friends cope with the wintery conditions.

● Let your dog's winter coat grow, and if you have a puppy, short-haired or old dog, buy him a sensible coat.

● Keep your dog on a lead if it is snowing very heavily. Snow can be disorienting, affecting a dog's sense of smell so he could become lost.

● Make sure your dog is microchipped and wearing an ID tag

in case he does get lost. Wearing a tag is a legal requirement.

● Grit used on roads can cut their paws so make sure you wipe your dog's legs and feet after a snowy walk.

● Antifreeze is highly poisonous but tasty to dogs! Keep it out of reach.

● Never leave your dog in a car during extreme weather, hot or cold.

● If your dog falls through ice, never be tempted to go after them but encourage them to swim back to you.

For more information visit www.dogstrust.org.uk/az/winter to download a free 'Winter and Cold Weather' factsheet.

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WRAPPING UP FOR WINTER APPLIES TO YOUR HOME, TOO!

BURST water pipes cause misery and expense, so Dwr Cymru Welsh Water is advising customers to protect their plumbing from freezing temperatures so they don't crack up in the cold weather.

Welsh Water's operations director, Peter Perry, said:

"Wrapping up and keeping warm during cold weather doesn't just apply to people it's what your house needs, too."

"The most important piece of advice that we can give is to lag your water pipes."

There's plenty of information on what is needed, as well as an explanatory film, on our website."

The main tips that the company offer to customers are:

● First, find out where your stop tap is located. It's often under the kitchen sink. Check it's working and that you can turn it off in an emergency.

If any taps in the house are leaking, get them repaired. Dripping taps can more easily freeze.

● If your property is going to be empty for long periods, you may wish to drain down the plumbing system.

To do this, turn off the stop tap and run the sink and bath taps until they run dry. It is

important to check with your plumber or central heating engineer that this

is suitable for your particular heating system.

If you are just away for a few days, you may choose to keep the heating on low.

● Insulate exposed and external water pipes with pipe lagging material.

● You can also insulate your water tank in the loft and any exposed pipes.

If you have to call a professional in to do the insulation, it could still be a lot cheaper than clearing up after a pipe bursts.

Enquiries to the Dwr Cymru Welsh Water press office on 029 2055 6140.

More information is available at www.dwrcymru.com.

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Celebrate Valentine's Day



How Claudius the Cruel sparked the flames of love

VALENTINE'S Day began during the Roman Empire, under the rule of Emperor Claudius II, when Rose was involved in many bloody and unpopular military campaigns. Claudius the Cruel, as he was known at the time, was having a difficult time getting soldiers to join his military leagues.

He believed that the reason was that soldiers did not want to leave their loves and families. As a result, Claudius cancelled all marriages and engagements in Rome.

This was when a Christian priest named Valentine, came to defend love in the empire. Valentine began to secretly marry couples, despite the emperor's orders.

Farewell message

When Emperor Claudius was informed of these ceremonies Valentine was sent to prison where he remained until his death on February 14 in the year 270, when he was clubbed, stoned, then beheaded. History claims that while Valentine was in prison awaiting execution, he

fell in love with the blind daughter of the jailer, Asterius. Through his unswerving faith, he miraculously restored her sight. He signed a farewell message to her 'From Your Valentine', a phrase that still lives today.

If this is true, that would have been the first Valentine's card.

Pagan festival

Mid February was traditionally the time of the Lupercian festival, an ode to the god of fertility and a celebration of sensual pleasure, a time to meet and court a prospective mate.

In AD 496, Pope Gelasius outlawed the pagan festival. But he was clever to replace it with a similar celebration, although one deemed morally suitable. He needed a 'lovers' saint to replace the pagan deity Lupercus.

The martyred Bishop Valentine was chosen as the patron saint of the new festival.

Pope Gelasius didn't get everything he wanted. The Pagan festival died out, it is true, but he had further hoped people would emulate the lives of saints.

True love

Instead, they latched onto the more romantic aspect of Saint Valentine's religious life.

While not immediately as popular as the more passionate pagan festival, eventually the concept of celebrating true love became known as Valentine's Day.

Until today, the tradition of honouring fertility taken from the ancient meanings of the holiday have endured and evolved with our contemporary adaptations of its meanings.

A legendary time to choose a mate!

MID-FEBRUARY has been a time for celebrating love ever since the Roman festival of Lupercalia held every year on February 15.

In honour of Juno, the goddess of marriage and fertility, it was rather like a country fair.

One of the customs was for young people to choose a sweetheart, or even just a good friend, for the year ahead.

Over the centuries, this festival gradually merged with the feast-day of St Valentine's, commemorating not

one, but two third-century Roman martyrs, both called St Valentine.

One was a priest in Rome who was clubbed to death for sheltering persecuted Christians; the other was a bishop who was martyred for holding forbidden weddings.

Legend has it that February 14 is also the day when birds choose their mates, hence the frequently used image of a pair of doves on Valentine's cards.

In A Midsummer Night's Dream, Shakespeare wrote: 'Good morrow, friends, Saint Valentine is past: Begin these wood-birds but to couple now?'

Love letters, hand-made cards and poems have been exchanged by lovers on February 14th, since the Middle Ages, but it was the Victorians who turned Valentine cards into high art.

Some of the early cards were bawdy, to say the least – but towards the end of the 19th century, elaborate paper and cardboard confections embellished with lace and embroidery and sentimental verse appeared.

These are treasured collectors' items today. Red roses – which were believed to have been the flowers of Venus, the Roman god-

dess of love and beauty – became the traditional symbol of love in the Victorians' symbolic 'Language of Flowers'. Unfortunately, roses are completely out of season in the northern hemisphere in February, so lovers have had to rely on hothouse blooms or imported flowers.

The other unmistakable symbol of love is, of course, the heart.

Heart-shaped trinket boxes are as popular now as they were in Victorian times.

Likewise, earrings, brooches and other jewellery made in the form of hearts have always been favourite gifts for Valentine's Day.

Romantic stroll in the park!

BBC Wales presents Lucy and Rhodri Owen of Cowbridge are encouraging people to be romantic, and join them in a charity Lovers' Walk in Cardiff on Sunday, February 12, to help save lives.

They are supporting British Heart Foundation (BHF) Cymru's 's Red for Heart Month this February, and will take part in a four-mile walk around Bute Park, Cardiff.

Sharon Owen, BHF Cymru Fundraising Manager for Cardiff, who is organising the event, said:

"We are delighted both Lucy and Rhodri Owen are joining many others at this romantic time of the year – to take part in this fun event to celebrate Valentine's Day.

"February's National Heart Month is our annual campaign to raise awareness of heart and circulatory disease, and raise funds for our research, prevention and care work.

Meeting inside the castle at Bute Park at 10.30am the walk starts at 11am. People are encouraged to wear red to make an impact.

Sponsorship forms are available by contacting Sharon Owen on

02920 382408 or email owensh@bhf.org.uk

For more information on activities and events and to get involved in Red for Heart activities to support BHF Cymru's National Heart Month, contact bhf.org.uk/red



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NOW BOOKING HALF TERM

So much on offer for kids these days

WHENEVER school holidays come around, it is impossible for people of a certain age to let the moment pass without recalling the 'good old days'.

You know the sort of thing – straight out of Monty Python's 'Four Yorkshiremen' sketch.

"When I was young, mam would send us out after breakfast and all day we would play at the blast furnace, the abattoir and the acid works."

"We would walk for miles in the country – never seeing another soul – and get back home as the sun was setting."

These recollections are guaranteed to conclude with the observation that kids these days are molly-coddled.

Well, The GEM makes no apology for

featuring a full range of activities for children this half term.

There are plenty of ways to burn up surplus energy, or to stimulate a young mind with a new experience.

What they have in common, of course, is that organisers plan ahead to maximise the experience and minimise the risk.

Follow the advice of the professionals and you can rest assured that your little one will be waiting for you at the end of the day – tired but happy!

Half term fun activities with Olympic flavour

Youngsters can sprint, hop, skip and jump their way through this forthcoming half term, by joining in a mini Olympic session at Cowbridge Leisure Centre.

Part of an exciting programme of activities on offer during the week at

the Vale of Glamorgan's leisure centres, the athletic session on Friday, February 17 (between 11am and 12pm) will get children set for the London 2012 Games.

Youngsters will also have the opportunity to learn indoor bowls at Cowbridge Leisure

Centre in a taster session on Wednesday, (Continued on page 20)

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Children's Choices

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Sporting choices for London 2012

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

February 15.

Street dance and cheerleading sessions, costing just £1, will be held at each of the leisure centres in Barry, Penarth, Cowbridge and Llantwit Major, while kids can also show off their best dance moves in the inter-active dance mat sessions at Barry and Penarth.

Further high-tech fitness sessions will be held daily in Barry in the form of interactive Trixter bike classes for youngsters aged under 15.

Soft play sessions will be held at all sites, while children will also love bouncing around in the inflatable mega

slide sessions in Barry, Penarth and Llantwit Major.

Crash course swimming lessons will be available for children aged four and above in Barry, Penarth and Llantwit Major.

Under-16s can also swim for free at specific times during the week, or take their pick from a number of pool-based activities including snorkelling, water polo and a rookie life-guards course.

For full details, you can download an activity programme from www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/leisurecentres or call 01446 403000.

...On your bikes for the Big Pedal!

CHILDREN, parents and teachers across the area will be getting on their bikes for the journey to school this March – as part of Sustrans Big Pedal – with top prizes up for grabs for the schools that involve most people.

The 'Big Pedal' is the UK's biggest school cycling competition, and aims to get kids active and raise money for the charity Sustrans. Nearly half of all children want to be able to get to school by bike, but only four per cent do – the three-week competition will show children and their parents just how easy it is to get around on two wheels.

Lee Waters, director for Sustrans Cymru, said: "Last year's Big Pedal saw children from more than 800 schools across the UK making nearly a million journeys by bike. This year's race will see even more families discovering just how easy it is to do the school run on two wheels. Children who cycle to school regularly are more active and alert, and better learners."

The race is funded by Bike Hub, the association of bike traders. Phillip Darnton, executive director of the Bicycle Association, said: "The future of cycling depends on every generation of kids learning and wanting to cycle. What better way to get started than joining in the Big Pedal."

"The cycle industry, through its Bike Hub levy, is delighted to fund this event for another year. 2012 is a very special year; the Big Pedal marks the start of the 'Summer of Cycling' – a new campaign bringing together everyone who cycles and encouraging them to introduce one new-comer to cycling during the year."

"That's why the Big Pedal is aiming for 1,000 schools to sign up and one million journeys to be made."

To get your school involved in the Big Pedal go to <http://thebigpedal.org.uk>.

A healthy start to the new year at Colcot Primary School

THE pupils and staff at Colcot Primary School have enjoyed two weeks of healthy living activities – each day started with fun exercise activities on the playground and in the hall.

The children enjoyed tasting fruits and vegetables and making various healthy meals and drinks.

It was a positive start to the new year with parents joining in the fun.

The children enjoyed a visit from the Vale catering team and Healthy Harry, and also from Konflux Theatre Group.

The year-5 pupils have taken part in three weeks of swimming lessons, while the other children have had the opportu-

nity of developing their street dance moves with dance teacher Emma Mallam.

Additional after school and lunchtime sport clubs were organised by the school's sports council, with the teachers showing their commitment by also starting a staff fitness club.

The year-4 pupils celebrated the success of the fortnight during their class assembly, which allowed the parents the opportunity to see how much the pupils had learnt and enjoyed the different activities.

We were also lucky enough to be given a donation from 'Saday-box', which made up three healthy hampers. These were then raffled for free to the children.

CB

THE SOUTH WALES SCORPIONS STUNG BY WIGAN WARRIORS

THE South Wales Scorpions, despite weather disruption causing the match to be moved from The Gnoll to the Llandarcy Academy of Sport, held their own against a young but strong Wigan Warriors line-up, losing 34-4.

It was an admirable performance against a Wigan side that contained mainly under-20s, with a smattering of first team squad players – former Scorpions and Crusaders forward Gil Dudson one of them, as well as Wales under-18s captain Rhodri Lloyd, who was with the Scorpions last year.

Thanks to snow and ice around south Wales, this match was one of only a handful in the area in any sport to go ahead.

The Gnoll ground was passed unfit at midday on Saturday, but the Scorpions had thought in advance and had pre-booked the G3 pitch at Llandarcy Academy of Sport.

The disruption reduced a potentially large crowd to one of around 150, but those who were able to brave the conditions enjoyed an exhilarating game as the Scorpions were given the test they needed before their competitive season kicks off next week.

New coach Dave Clark gave 13 of his new players a run out,

SCORPIONS 4
WIGAN WARRIORS XIII 34

with just Jamie Rooney unable to play due to personal reasons. They also fielded Jamie Acton from Wigan, who the Scorpions agreed a dual-registration deal with on Friday.

Wigan took the lead after four minutes in their second consecutive set. Anthony Gilling set up Shae Lyon Fraser to go over in the corner. Jack Murphy missed the kick.

However, the new-look Scorpions side put pressure on their Super League opponents and came close to the line twice, forcing a goal-line drop-out on the second occasion.

Still the home side attacked. David James was held up over the line and then the same player, making his Rugby League comeback after a year out of the game, did well to pick up a tricky grubber at the other end to prevent a second Wigan score.

But the Super League youngsters weren't to be denied.

Scott Leatherbarrow opened up a gap for Rhodri Lloyd to sprint 30m to the line. Murphy converted.

They added a third six minutes before half-time when Murphy finished off a slick move by scoring in the corner and doing well to convert himself.

The Scorpions weren't downhearted and carried on pressur-

ing the Wigan line and it paid off just before the hooter when David James bundled over in the corner. Lewis Reece missed the kick.

It took a long time for either side to break through in the second half as defences tightened.

The rainy conditions, but thankfully no snow, in Llandarcy took their toll, adding grease to both ball and pitch.

Wigan extended their lead just after the hour mark. A bouncing Leatherbarrow grubber was missing by the Scorpions' defence and Lloyd eventually pounced on a loose ball for his second of the afternoon, which Leatherbarrow goaled.

Leatherbarrow went from creator to scorer from the next attack with a clean break, running 20m to the line and converting himself to put the Warriors 28-4 up.

Scorpions eventually crossed the line for what looked like a good try, but it was ruled out by the touch-judge for off-side.

Curtis Cunningham had done well with a one-on-one to catch a high Shaun Owens lob and grounded after Owens and Neil Dallimore were both short of the line with try attempts.

Alistair McKenna was close soon after that but dropped the ball after being tackled a

metre from the white-wash.

But it was the Cook Islands international Anthony Gilling who had the last say, finding a gap and jogging over the Scorpions line. Leatherbarrow kicked the goal after the final hooter to give the Warriors a 30-point win, but the Scorpions weren't disgraced against the best academy side in the country.

SCORPIONS: Lewis Reece; Dalton Grant; Tom Morgan; David James; Watton; Dale Evans; Shaun Owens; Neil Dallimore; Steve Parry; Joe Burke; Jamie Acton; Chris Vitalini; Phil Carleton. Subs: Joe McKenna; Alistair McKenna; Callum Wilkinson; Ashley Bateman; Nathan Mossop; Lewis Fox; Rodney Peake; Curtis Cunningham; Alan Pope.

WARRIORS: Matty Russell; Jack Murphy; Anthony Gilling; Jack Hughes; Shae Lyon Fraser; Joe Mellor; Scott Leatherbarrow; Gil Dudson; Logan Tomkins; Greg Burke; Matthew Crow; Rhodri Lloyd; Connor Farrell. Subs: Liam Carberry; James Greenwood; Kieron Harrison; John O'Donnell; Liam Fishwick; Joe Bullock; Andrew Cunningham.

IAN GOLDEN

Ravens flying through Cup with win over Blackwood

SEA View Ravens took to the field against Blackwood, knowing that a win would put them in a semi-finals of the Welsh Rugby Union cup – just one step away from the final in the Arms Park.

The game started at a frenetic pace and Sea View were put under pressure from the very first minute.

However, their defence was up to the task and the tackles kept raining in on each and every Blackwood player attempting to break the line.

Blackwood kept attacking and the link ups between their forwards and backs were impressive. However, a mistake from the Blackwood ladies allowed Sea View to gain possession and fullback Savannah took advantage, completely outstripping the Blackwood defence on the left wing and making it across the line for the game's opening try, which she duly converted.

Not to be easily beaten, Blackwood hit back hard and started trying to punch holes in the Sea View defence.

Good phases of play saw them work their way to the Ravens' try

line, only to be held up on more than one occasion, with the View's defence seeming like a brick wall.

Blackwood were not to be denied, however, and eventually the pressure told with a try midway through the first half, which went unconverted.

From the restart, Blackwood gathered and seemed to be looking to turn the screw and earn themselves another try. However, Sea View capitalised on another mistake, with scrum half Rafiuke crossing over after a blistering run. The try was again converted by Savannah. **The first half ended 14-5 to Sea View.**

The second half saw Blackwood piling on the pressure again and the View needed to defend once again.

However, in what was becoming a familiar story with the View defence, they refused to be pushed around and both the forwards and backs were putting in big hits to keep the opposition out.

Sea View managed to gain some possession midway through the second half and a chip ahead by Savannah was followed by a tug back from a Blackwood player.

Advantage was played, and all

the Sea View supporters, coaches and players were convinced they'd seen her touch the ball down for a try, only for the referee to bring them back to take the penalty.

Unfortunately, Blackwood managed to shut up shop this time and kept Sea View at bay, eventually gaining possession and starting their powerful attacks once again.

Blackwood's hard work paid off shortly after when they crossed the line again to secure their second try, which went unconverted, to take the score to 10-14 to the Ravens.

Despite further attacks from Blackwood, that saw The View putting in a heroic effort in defence, Blackwood were unable to score and the View kept the scoreline to 14-10.

Special mention goes to Karen Cooper and Kath Reed, who both had great games for Sea View.

Sea View would like to thank their coaches and management for their support, also their travelling supporters who made the journey to Blackwood in large numbers.

The Ravens now face a semi-final against Whitland on April 15.

RJ

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NEWS FROM PENARTH AND DISTRICT RAMBLERS

A wishing well, a pudding stone – and a Folly Tower!

RECENTLY, on a rather overcast morning Jeff, Ann, Terry and Marion joined William for the journey up to Goytre Wharf, a 200-year-old Industrial Heritage site situated on the Brecon and Monmouth canal between Pontypool and Abergavenny.

After strolling through fields towards Pentre Hill wood, the group turned south and passed cottages at Pen-y-stair, before walking beside a stream on the lower wooded slopes of Garnwen.

They paused at the Holy Well or Ffynnon Angaeron, where the spring comes out of a square stone structure which has a bell

attached.

It was described as a medieval wishing well by Thomas Thomas of Cardiff who visited it in 1890 when pins, pencil stubs and buttons were found, having been tossed in apparently for luck.

They climbed up to the summit of Mynydd Garn-wen, standing at 425 metres. The

rocks are quartz conglomerate, hard white pieces of rock found in what is commonly called pudding stone, shown clearly in the English translation – mountain of white rock.

They then joined a track just beneath the ridgeway before descending, to skirt Pontypool Golf Club which apparently is the second highest golf course in Wales, beaten only by Nant-y-Glo, near Brynmawr.

Another climb led them to the famous landmark of Folly Tower, built around 1770 by John Hanbury, a local ironmaster who owned Pontypool Park. It is said that no less than seven counties can be seen from the top.

The group descended and headed off towards Lambrook Farm where the views towards Llandegfedd reservoir and the Llancaio windmill were admired, before returning through Coed Howell to the start.

On February 4, meet at 9am at Cogan for a nine-mile hard walk at Craig y Nos, taking in a crashed aircraft site and a waterfall; contact Barrie on 029 2053 0753.

On February 5, meet at 10am at Cogan for a five-mile easy stroll around Cardiff Bay; contact Pam on 029 2021 9102.

Membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2021 9102.

JOY STRANGWARD

Council's strategic plan set to go out to public consultation

LDP draft available this month

THE official plan that will govern how land is used in the Vale over the next 15 years will be available for public comment from February 20.

The Vale Council has prepared its Deposit (draft) Local Development Plan (LDP), which, once adopted, will govern how land within the Vale is used between 2011 and 2026.

The LDP contains various local planning policies and makes provision for a number of land uses, including housing, employment, retail, recreation, transport, tourism, minerals, waste, and community uses.

A six-week public consultation on the Deposit LDP will take place from Monday, February 20 to Monday, April 2.

During the consultation period the Deposit LDP, together with supporting documents, can be viewed at the council's main offices and libraries or on the council's website.

Public exhibitions

will be held at:

West House, Penarth (Saturday, March 3, 10am – 1pm and Wednesday, March 14, 2pm – 7pm).

Cowbridge Town Hall, (Saturday, March 10, 10am – 1pm and Tuesday, March 20, 2pm – 7pm).

Llantwit Major Town Hall (Wednesday, February 29, 2pm – 7pm and Saturday, March 24, 10am – 1pm).

Dock Office, Barry (Normal office hours throughout the six-week public consultation period and on Saturday, March 17, 10am – 1pm).

Councillor Jeffrey James, cabinet member for planning and transport, said, "I am pleased to announce arrangements for a six-week public consultation period on the council's Deposit LDP. This represents a key stage in the production of the LDP.

"The draft plan provides the focus for sustainable growth and regeneration of all our communities while protecting the environ-

ment for future generations. Once adopted, the plan will ensure that key decisions relating to the future use of land and proposals for development are made consistently, based on policies that are up to date and fit for purpose.

"I would like to thank all those who have engaged in the process to date and look forward to receiving your views on what is an important strategic document."

Representations can be made during the consultation period using an online comment form, which can be found at www.vale-of-glamorgan.gov.uk/lp. Paper forms can be obtained from Vale libraries and main council offices.

The closing date for comments on the plan is Monday, April 2, 5pm. The council will not consider representations submitted after this time.

For more information, contact the LDP team on 01446 700111 or e-mail LDP@vale-of-glamorgan.gov.uk.

Penarth Computer Club Open Office vs MS Office

IF IT seems too good to be true, it probably is. This piece of advice stands us in good stead when considering buying something. It prevents us from falling for bargain that turns out not to be one.

It applies to buying software and enables us to avoid pirated or illegal copies from someone after your money.

But what if it is free?

There are people who feel that the big software houses shouldn't be charging high prices for their products. They have written similar software that does the same job and simply give it away as a matter of principle. No licence, no restrictions as to use, and you can give copies away to your friends.

Proprietary suites of Office Software can cost hundreds of pounds and are powerful enough to do just about any job; from a note to a novel, a list to a database or a picture to a presentational slide show with bells

and whistles.

Open Office (free to download) claims it can do it all as well. We recently looked at both suites to see if that is true.

Mike F gave a run-through of what he does with Open Office, and although there were slight differences in the way things worked, everything could be done in a way not unfamiliar to Windows Office users. Mike reminded us that he uses a mere 10 per cent of the software's capability – most of that being the same used by everyone, plus a few bits in odd corners of the programme that others might not use (that usage pattern is quite normal. The entire membership of the club probably uses much less than half of what is available.)

Mike J uses Microsoft Office 2007 and ran through a similar set of tasks. The screen layout is a little different from earlier versions (which Open Office resembles); the latest ribbon layout gives a new way of accessing the menus. Even so,

the user operations are broadly similar. Mike points out that he will continue with Microsoft Office because he is used to it.

The free suite is capable of reading and saving formats to suit other proprietary software and this applies to spreadsheets, pictures presentations and databases as well, and to the extent that the suites were demonstrated for home use; the free software could do all that the expensive software could.

Businesses often need and prefer the comfort (and technical support) of proprietary software, but it would seem worthwhile for an individual to download and try Open Office before spending lots of money (Google Open Office is free download). Free software from sources we trust is listed on our website (penarthcomputerclub.co.uk).

The next meeting is on Tuesday, February 14 at All Saints Lesser Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth at 7.30pm. For more information telephone 029 20708439.

	<p>Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries</p> <p>HAVE YOUR SAY</p>		<p>Ffiniau Etholaeth Seneddol</p> <p>DWEUD EICH DWEUD</p>
<p>NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING: CARDIFF</p> <p>Notice is given today that there will be a public hearing under the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1985, as amended, into the initial proposals of the Boundary Commission for Wales for Parliamentary constituency boundaries in Wales, which were published on 11 January 2011.</p> <p>The hearing will be held by the Assistant Commissioners, Mr Gerard Elias QC, Mr Geraint Walters QC and Mr Clive Lewis QC. It will open on:-</p> <p>Wednesday 22 February 2012 at 10.00am in the Presidents Lounge – Millennium Stadium, Westgate Street, Cardiff, CF10 1NS and close at 8.00pm and re-open on:-</p> <p>Thursday 23 February 2012 at 9.00am in the same venue and close at 5.00pm.</p> <p>The public hearing is intended to provide an opportunity for people to make representations about any of the Commission's initial proposals and to present any counter-proposals. Unlike the local inquiries of the past, a public hearing under the new statutory scheme is not intended to focus to any significant degree on comments about any counter-proposals that may be put forward by others.</p> <p>If you wish to make a representation at the above hearing, the Commission requests that you contact the Commission confirming the preferred date and time you wish to make your representation. The Commission will write to all of those who make a request with further information about the hearings and provide an allocated timeslot. If it is not possible to fit all requested representations at one particular venue, the nearest alternative venue will be offered.</p> <p>Following receipt of the representations submitted during the initial consultation period, either in writing or at the public hearings, the Commission will publish these representations and a second consultation period will commence. Following this consultation period and receipt of the Assistant Commissioners' report, the Commission may revise their proposals. While the Commission will always invite written representations concerning any revised proposals they might publish, all interested parties should be aware that they may not be able to state their case at a further public hearing, as there is no provision of public hearings at any other stage of the 2013 Review.</p> <p>The initial proposals and constituency maps are available on the Commission's website or at public locations across Wales.</p> <p>For further information please contact: The Boundary Commission for Wales, Canadog House, 1 – 6 St. Andrews Place, Cardiff, CF10 3BE.</p> <p>Telephone: 029 2039 5031 Fax: 029 2039 5250 Email: bcomm.wales@wales.gov.uk Web Site: www.bcomm-wales.gov.uk</p>		<p>HYSBYSIAD O WRANDAWIAD CYHOEDDUS: CAERDYDD</p> <p>Hysbysir drwy hyn heddiw y caiff gwrandawriad cyhoeddus ei gynnal o dan Ddeddf Etholaethau Seneddol 1985, fel y'i diwygwyd, i ymgyrchu cydwybrydol y Comisiwn Ffiniau i Gymru dros ffiniau etholaethau Seneddol yng Nghymru, a gyhoeddwyd ar 11 Ionawr 2011.</p> <p>Caiff y gwrandawriad ei gynnal gan y Comisiynwyr Cynorthwyoed, Mr Gerard Elias QC, Mr Geraint Walters QC a Mr Clive Lewis QC. Bydd yn dechrau ar:-</p> <p>Dydd Mercher 22 Chwefror 2012 am 10.00am yn Lloftir Llywydd - Stadium y Mileniwm, Westgate Street, Caerdydd, CF10 1NS ac yn dod i ben am 8.00pm ac yn ail-ddechrau ar:-</p> <p>Dydd Iau 23 Chwefror 2012 am 9.00am yn yr un lleoliad ac yn dod i ben am 5.00pm.</p> <p>Bwriedir i'r gwrandawriad cyhoeddus fod yn gyfle i bobol roi sylwadau ar unrhyw un o ymgyrchu cydwybrydol y Comisiwn ac i gyflwyno unrhyw wrthgyngirion. Yn anrhybrydd i ymchwiliadau lleol yn y gorffennol, o dan y cynllun statudol newydd, ni bwriedir i wrandawriad cyhoeddus ganolbwyntio i unrhyw raddau helaeth ar sylwadau sy'n ymwneud ag unrhyw wrthgyngirion y gallai eraill eu hargwysgu.</p> <p>Os bydddech am roi sylwadau yn y gwrandawriad uchod, gofynnir i'r Comisiwn i chi gysylltu ag ef i gadarnhau'r dyddiad a'r amser sy'n well gennych er mwyn rhoi eich sylwadau. Bydd y Comisiwn yn ysgrifennu at bawb sy'n gofyn am roi sylwadau gyda rhagor o wybodaeth am y gwrandawriad ac yn rhoi amser amcangyfrifedig i chi. Os na fydd modd i bawb sydd wedi gofyn am roi sylwadau wrthdod hysbysu neu'n un lleoliad penodol, cynigir lleoliad agos arall i chi.</p> <p>Ar ôl i'r holl sylwadau a gyflwynir yn ystod y cyfnod ymgynghoriol cydwybrydol ddiol i law, naill ai yn ysgrifenedig neu yn y gwrandawriad cyhoeddus, bydd y Comisiwn yn cyhoeddi'r sylwadau hyn a bydd all gyfnod ymgynghoriol dechrau. Ar ôl y cyfnod ymgynghoriol hwn ac ar ôl i adroddiad y Comisiynwyr Cynorthwyoed ddiol i law, naill ai bawb i bydd y Comisiwn yn diwygio ei ymgyrchu. Er y bydd y Comisiwn bob amser yn gwahoddi sylwadau ysgrifenedig yn ymwneud ag unrhyw ymgyrchu diwygiedig y bydd o bosibl yn eu cyhoeddi, dylai pob parti a bwrdddall fod yn ymwybodol na fyddant o bosibl yn gallu datgan eu hachos mewn gwrandawriad cyhoeddus pellach, gan na chynhelir unrhyw wrandawriad cyhoeddus ar unrhyw gari arall yn Ardal 2013.</p> <p>Naill ai cynigir cydwybrydol a mapiau etholaethol ar gael ar wefan y Comisiwn neu mewn lleoliadau cyhoeddus ledled Cymru.</p> <p>Am ragor o wybodaeth, cysylltwch â'r Comisiwn Ffiniau i Gymru, Tŷ Canadog, 1 – 6 Ffynon Sant, Caerdydd, CF10 3BE.</p> <p>Ffôn: 029 2039 5031 Ffacs: 029 2039 5250 E-bost: comfin.cymru@cyrru.gov.uk Gwefan: www.comfin-cymru.gov.uk</p>	



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YOUNG GOALIES KEEP VALE'S FOOTBALL FUTURE IN SAFE PAIR OF HANDS AT BARRY



A young goalkeeper prepares to stop a shot.

SPECIALIST goalkeeper coaching sessions in Barry are giving Vale youngsters the chance of a sports career by keeping them on the radar of professional clubs.

Gone are the days of goalkeepers being an after-thought. Instead, boys as young as seven are able to receive professional coaching in the sports barn at St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School in Barry every Wednesday between 5pm and 6pm.

Set up with support from the Vale Council's sports and play development team, Dinas Powys Football Club and the Welsh Football Trust, the sessions cover every aspect of goalkeeping; – positioning, handling, communication, distribution and more.

A Vale Council spokesman said: "The young stoppers who attend are grasping the opportunity with both hands, and their impressive progress during recent months hasn't gone un-noticed."

"Several players have caught the eye of professional club scouts, with Newport County keeping tabs on nine-year-old Emilio Alvarez-Price,



Youngsters and coaches at the specialist goalkeeping coaching sessions in Barry.

and Cardiff City tracking the talents of Will Hardy, Oliver Cooper and Iestyn Miller."

The boys are too young to be officially signed by the clubs, but all are either being closely monitored or are attending training centres with them, depending on their ages.

Emilio Alvarez-Price's father Eduardo said: "At Emilio's age, the most important thing is that he enjoys playing his sport, and he really loves football."

"He likes throwing himself about between the sticks and making friends with the other boys. To have the opportunity to be coached at such a young age is absolutely fantastic."

The coaching sessions were initially set up over a trial period last summer for children

aged seven to 12, and their popularity has led to weekly sessions in which qualified coaches Andy Davies and Ed Thomas are passing on their experience.

Ed, who also plays for Barry Town under-19s, said: "Goalkeeper coaching has been under-valued for too long, so it's great to give the boys this chance to be coached from a young age and hopefully fulfil their potential."

New recruits are always welcome at the coaching sessions, and a half-term goalkeeping camp is also being held on the fields at Bryn-y-Don in Dinas Powys from February 13-15.

To find out more, and to book your child's place on the coaching camp, please call Andy Davies on 07413 360504.

Coach Andy Davies passes on advice to Emilio Alvarez-Price, who is currently being scouted by Newport County.



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Learning all about pearls

RHOOSE WI met at the Community Hall, Stewart Road on Thursday, February 2, at 7.30pm.

The speaker for the evening, Ms Erna Cacace, proprietor of Precious Pearls Jewellery Ltd, was introduced and spoke of her lifelong fascination with pearls.

The vote of thanks was given by Glenys Watson, and members were reminded of the spring council meeting at the Memorial Hall, Barry, on April 18, and

also about entries for the Eisteddfod on March 1.

The meeting concluded with the announcement of the competition winners: Gail Simmonds won the monthly competition with her blue accessory, and Eileen Eeles won the raffle.

The next meeting will be the Eisteddfod on March 1 at 7.30pm in the Community Hall, Stewart Road, when members will take part in a variety of competitions and entertainment.

New members and

visitors will be very welcome.

Forthcoming events:

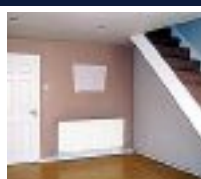
February 7 – coffee mornings begin at Coffee Time at 11am and every Tuesday thereafter; February 9 – lunch club at The Highwayman Inn, Nurnston, at 12 noon.

(Those members who wish to walk, can meet near the village pump at 11.15am.) February 17 – skittles at 2pm at Rhooose Social Club, and afterwards to Coffee Time for refreshments.

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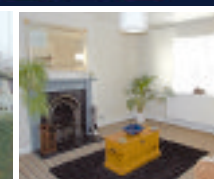
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- Communal front & rear gardens
- Viewing highly recommended
- No ongoing chain

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JEWEL STREET, BARRY

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- Good sized rear garden
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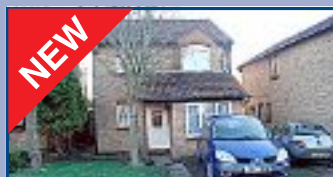
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Birthday Wishes

Kelsey Ryan Happy 13th Birthday

11th February 2012

Love you millions, hugs and kisses, Mum. Also, love Nanna Sue, Grampy Col, Auntie Jen, Uncle Gareth, Luke & Ashley. XXXX



Happy 18th Birthday

Ashley Williams

on 8th February, 2012 Have a great party!

Love Mum, Dad & Luke. XXXX



Ashley Williams

Happy 18th Birthday

8th February

Love Nanna Sue, Grampy Col, Cath & Kelsey. XXXX



Family Notices

Peter Newman

Lyn would like to thank family and friends for their kind thoughts at this sad time and for the many cards of sympathy received. A special thank you to Jean who has been a great support at this time.

Also, thank you to Thomas Brothers Funeral Directors and the Nursing Staff at the Princess of Wales Hospital

JONES

Hugh Malcolm (Tosh) 15.02.2010

Its two years since you were taken away from me and I miss you so much. I will always carry your heart in my heart, so that you will always be with me. I know you love me and will keep me safe until the day we are together again. Love always, Valerie xx

FORTT

Margaret (Peggy)

Peacefully on 4th February 2012, at Southways Nursing Home, Cowbridge formerly of Llantwit Major. Dearly loved wife of the late Arthur John Fortt (Bill).

Funeral Service on Monday, 13th February 2012 at 2pm at Bethel Baptist Church, Llantwit Major followed by Cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 3.15pm.

The family would like to than the staff at Southways Nursing Home for the care provided to Peggy.

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Vale netball clubs get funding boost



BUDDING local netball players of all ages have a chance to take up the sport, after two Vale clubs netted a funding boost - thanks to the Community Chest scheme.

Ladies over 40 are invited to rekindle their passion for the game by getting involved with the newly-formed Penarth Vets Netball Club, while junior players are welcomed at the Codeworks Westend Ladies Netball Club in Barry.

Both were chosen as worthy recipients of funding in the latest round of Community Chest grant awards that are run locally by the Vale Council and agreed by a panel of volunteers with support from Sport Wales.

If you are a member of a sports club, organisation or workplace in the Vale and would like to discuss a potential Community Chest application please contact the Vale Council's sports and play development team on 01446 704748, or visit www.vale-of-glamorgan.gov.uk/sportsandplay.

News from the Barry Men's Forum

Trekking through history reveals colourful panorama

AT THE latest last meeting our speaker, Aldon Grisdale, kept members enthralled for an hour with his talk on the history of Barry without visual aids.

Interesting facts, one after the other, revealed a colourful panorama over 2,000 years that is not easy to report, and only highlights of this tour de force can be mentioned here.

Aldon explained some strange facts and destroyed some old myths. For instance, the pebbles on Porthkerry beach have, in geographical terms, been in situ for 700 years - a mere blink of the eye.

They moved over from the west, but for the moment seem to have stopped their drift.

There was never a castle on Castle Rock. The huge tidal range on this coast would have made any entrance far too high for practical use.

Evidence of Roman buildings has been found in the area and there might have been a high-status ferry there for Roman officials.

It has to be constantly remembered that tide reaches in the whole Barry area were vastly different from those seen today. Parts of the area as far as Dinas Powys were regularly inundated.

There is much evidence, incidentally, that

the Romans took stone from the Cold Knapp area for the building of Cardiff Castle. It could easily have been taken from there by sea and then floated up the river to the Castle site.

Our speaker gave us much information about Barry Island, which it is commonly assumed was named after St. Baruc. However, Aldon has a theory that the whole story of this saint is highly questionable and was largely spun by Gerald of Wales to make Barry Island and the veneration of his drowned body a place of lucrative pilgrimage for the ruling family in the area to whom he was related.

In more modern times our speaker revealed that a trapdoor on the allotment at the top of the cliffs overlooking No 1 Dock leads down to a tunnel and an almost hidden window on the cliff side. Here during the last War was the control centre for the explosive mechanism that would cause the destruction of the lock gates if the enemy had landed.

In 1806, the Vicar of St Nicholas discovered in the area what he suspected was a Viking stone covered in runic markings. He contacted learned authorities in London who left the capital and travelled to Wales to view the object. Unfortunately, somewhere in Cadocoxton they were misdirected

as to the whereabouts of the Island and they ended up in Cowbridge.

They made their way back to London in some dudgeon and never examined the Viking relic. It is thought to still be in the area somewhere.

In quite recent times a prehistoric standing stone was known to be in situ near where the Barry Docks railway station was built around 1879. When the tunnel under the lines was built it completely disappeared and is thought to be buried in the vicinity.

The preservation of such artifacts is given a much higher priority today, but there is little doubt that we are surrounded in this area by many a hidden ancient foundation, cemetery or well.

There is evidence in Victoria Park of Roman settlements and our speaker told us that high ground was always used in ancient times to safeguard against the ravages of floods in an area that was far more prone to such events than we experience now.

At our next meeting on February 9, Alun Underhill will speak on the 'Johnstown Flood'. Meetings are held every Thursday at 10.30am in the hall of the United Reformed Church in Barry. New members very welcome. Telephone 02920 594881.

MAC TANNER

HONOURING THE WELSH PRINCESS WHO BECAME THE SAINT OF LOVERS!



LAST week, the year-2 pupils at All Saints Church in Wales Primary School celebrated Saint Dwynwen's Day with a class assembly about love and friendship.

St Dwynwen was a Welsh princess who lived 1,500 years ago and was herself unlucky in love, so she dedicated her life to

God and became the Welsh Patron Saint of Lovers.

The story of 'Santes Dwynwen' was dramatised by the children, giving their audience an interesting lesson in Welsh legend.

They went on to celebrate their theme through songs, poetry and their own writings, illustrated with a PowerPoint display of



ABOVE: Teacher Mr Ball with some of the pupils involved.

their art work depicting friends, family and much loved pets.

Headteacher Richard Ware praised the children for a delightful performance and reinforced the importance of good friendships. He also thanked the year-2 teachers, Mrs Koursaros and Mr Ball, for another outstanding assembly. **NM**



ABOVE; Pupils show off their artwork.

Girls boost charity – with cakes!

Students partake in the cake break.



"SCRUMMY and delicious" were some of the words used by staff to describe Bryn Hafren's 7SP's first cake break on Wednesday, February 1.

The girls had been busy baking a variety of cakes, from love heart cup

cakes to cookies and chocolate brownies. The cake break was a huge success, with all cakes selling out within 20 minutes, unfortunately leaving some disappointed late comers hungry. In preparation for the cake break, the girls also organised a raffle which raised more than £43 before the cake break even

took place. The fundraising event raised an amazing total of £133.30 for Daniel's Cwtch Fund.

7SP's form teacher, Mrs Paulakis said: "I am very proud of the girls efforts this week, they have worked extremely hard to raise such a large amount of money in such a short time."

Barry Huskies slow out of the starting blocks in the new year

THE Barry Huskies first and second teams faced a busy January schedule with games coming thick and fast.

The first team got the year under way with a tough loss away to the Kenfig Cougars.

A slow start from the Huskies saw them down by 21 going into the final quarter, but despite out-scoring the home

side 19-8 they lost 75-63. Lloyd Roberts top scored with 23.

This game was quickly followed by an agonising home loss against the Cardiff Capitals. This was a game that the Huskies dominated, only for them to lose the lead with three minutes to go, losing 65-58. Elliott Thomas, on his return from injury, top scored with 19 points in eighteen minutes.

The team found their

first win of the year in the next game; 76-68 away to the South Wales Police. An excellent team performance saw Ian Gibbons score a season-high 27 points.

Coach Trigg commented: "We had a chance of making it three wins out of three, but basic errors and a lack of concentration cost us, particularly against the Capitals. But we've finally got our first league win and will

build from here."

The seconds also got off to a slow start, losing a tight game away to Beddau Knights 64-59, a game which saw David Pitman dominate with 33 points.

This was quickly followed by an 86-80 win against Cardiff Capitals thirds, again Pitman dominating (32 points) with help from Jack Dyer (30 points).

Afterwards, coach Cooper said: "We started

slowly against Beddau, and should have won, but I was pleased we put that right against the Capitals."

The club are still recruiting from age 12 years onwards. Telephone Alun Rees on 02920 531531, or visit www.barryhuskies.net or our Facebook page: Barry Huskies Basketball Club.

NORWAY LINKS UP WITH BARRY SCHOOL



The Norwegian students currently studying at Bryn Hafren School.

BRYN HAFREN school in Barry, is proud of its links with the Hordaland International School – two students have again been chosen to study with us.

Over the years, quite a tradition has grown up and host mum Julie has had many students.

They keep in touch. Pictured (above) is Astrid, presently at Bryn Hafren with her two sisters who have

been over here for a week, with Iden our other Norwegian student this year.

Marte was here two years ago and his younger sister Anne hopes to come over in due course.

The students love Barry and Wales. The contribution of the Norwegian students enriches our sixth form.

Their English is excellent and they study alongside Barry students in year-12. They are always lovely students and excellent ambassadors for Hordaland. **LR**

Jaguar XF mixes old and new in sophisticated blend

MY FAMILY and I watched part of the marathon six-hour Djokovic and Nadal tennis match on the television.

"So what?" you might say. Ah, but we were parked in a flash Jaguar XF three-litre diesel at the time.

This was only possible, I admit, after my adorable 11-month old daughter Harriett – perhaps a future Vicki Butler-Henderson – helped her dense father operate the touchscreen TV in the centre of the dash.

After she got bored and turned her hand to steering and grabbing the leather-stitched dashboard, my wife Caroline and I had a small chance of winning Nadal to win before Harriett got bored.

Sadly, our chanting didn't help. You can see why the XF is so popular among chauffeurs. For starters, the interior is packed with luxuries such as electrically operated heated and cooled front seats.

Then the Freeview TV, with remarkable reception incidentally, provides hours of entertainment for the driver as he keeps the engine running for those VIP passengers. It's no surprise that there are 18 Jaguars, including a three-litre XF diesel in the Ministerial Car Pool.

Apparently Ministers have turned their backs

on Japanese cars and are now demanding Birmingham-built Jags instead. Very patriotic chaps.

Interestingly, the Government has revealed that every new ministerial car bought since the 2010 general election has been a Jaguar manufactured at Castle Bromwich.

Television isn't the only reason to savour the XF, though. The suave and sophisticated luxury limousine can reach 60mph from standstill in just 5.9 seconds, and has a top speed of 155mph (limited), all smoothly delivered through an eight-speed auto.

It is also equipped with paddle shifts for those who enjoy the experience of a manual.

Diesel technology has certainly improved. Last week, I drove the brash Mitsubishi Lancer Evo with its permanent sense of urgency.

In comparison, the gentlemanly Jag is a much more refined and debonair character that still delivers very similar performance (the XF is just under a second slower in the 0 to 60 stakes and yet delivers 44mpg compared to 18 to 23 in the Evo).

Where the Evo, more like a rough and ready Cockney geezer, had a particularly hard ride, the aristocratic cat is much smoother. And there's not an imposing roar from the exhaust either, more a slight purr. Soundproofing is exemplary.

The test took place during some pretty severe cold spells and the quick clear windcreens are effective.

As is often the way these days, the standard ignition has been replaced with a simple start/stop button on the centre console. Initially a little noise can be heard from the engine, but overall it is the quietest diesel I have had the privilege of driving.

When the engine starts the air vents automatically lift and open, making the vehicle feel very futuristic.

Additionally, a sophisticated dial that replaces the traditional gearstick rises from the console. It is simply a matter of selecting your chosen mode and then depressing the handbrake switch to commence your journey.

Although it's hard to criticise the XF there are a few irritations. Look at the steering wheel and the Jaguar image seems slightly comical and out of character, in my opinion.

The traditional leap-jaguar, which appears on the touchscreen and the boot, would be far more appropriate I feel.

When reversing, the high-pitched warning sound emitted is a little harsh for comfort, although those hard of hearing might find it useful.

Fitted with cruise control, the XF also has a sophisticated vehicle sensor that generally keeps the XF at a safe



ABOVE: The Jaguar XF.

distance from the car in front. This technology, however, isn't infallible, requiring the driver to intervene when a vehicle pulls out in front, for instance.

Windscreens washers don't usually interest me but on the Jag they have been mounted on the actual windscreen wipers – rather than the bonnet.

Externally this is a strikingly attractive car with its distinctive front grille and low front spoiler. The reasonably sized boot easily accommodated my daughter's pushchair.

Helpfully, when in the middle lane of the motorway, the power-folding wing mirrors incorporate a flashing two-car symbol that informs the driver when a car appears in their blind spot.

Music lovers are sure to appreciate the crystal clear 1,200W 17-speaker Bowers & Wilkins audio system. Tunes that you thought you knew well suddenly seem to gain additional instruments and greater clarity.

Parkers, the car experts, say: "Years of

criticism for being too 'traditional' and flagging sales prompted Jaguar to take a radical step when replacing the S-Type.

"The XF has hints of previous Jaguars in details of its design, but looks and feels every inch a modern, upmarket saloon. The interior is wonderfully stylish and despite actually containing more wood than any previous Jaguar, it's combined with aluminium to give it a contemporary appearance.

"It's amazingly comfortable too but also good to drive, with very little body roll and responsive steering."

It strikes me, though, that the driver and front passenger have all the luxury with the television and heated and cooled electrically operated front seats.

Jaguar XF diesel tested £49,950.
Economy: 44mpg (combined),
Top speed: 155mph (limited),
Road tax: £269 for 12 months,
Power: 275bhp.

The importance of proper car servicing!

HAVING the car serviced is often seen as that dreaded task which may prove to cost an arm and a leg, or as one of our customers puts it, "will it mean I have to sell one kidney, or two?"

The truth of it is that if you have your car serviced properly it will cost a lot less in maintenance in the long run; by putting off doing the basics it allows bigger problems to develop.

Believe it or not, there is also a huge difference in how servicing is done at different garages. For example, it's astonishing how often an oil change is referred to as a service!

The quality of fluids and filters used makes an enormous difference too.

Let's think about it logically; is it not true that you always get what you pay for in life?

The same is true of fluids and filters.

If you put a bargain basement cheap quality oil filter in the car, it is going to degrade and dirty far quicker than a higher quality filter.

A real service involves thoroughly inspecting your vehicle in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications.

Here at Permovero, our diagnostic tooling and technician training is really top notch and sets us apart from the fast fit centres and car sales centres pretending to be diagnostic experts.

Quite simply, we have more diagnostic equipment than anyone else in the area!

You've probably seen other adverts promising a full service for less than £100.

While this sounds good, the truth of it is that if you use quality

ADVERTISING FEATURE

filters and fluids, as per the manufacturer recommendations, the £100 barely covers that cost, let alone paying a fully qualified technician.

Therefore, if you've been quoted a bargain basement price, you can expect corners to be cut somewhere.

At Permovero, we always base our servicing on your vehicle manufacturer's recommendations, plus an additional checklist of our own to ensure that we can keep you informed of any potential problems arising with the vehicle.

Our servicing always includes a free main dealer level diagnostic code scan so that you see whether your car has any fault codes logged – and we even throw in a free air-con top up!

Also, if you've had your annual inspection with us, you will know whether you are likely to have to do any other maintenance throughout the next 12 months.

Bear in mind that a code scan at the main dealers tends to be upwards of £100 and an

air-con top up is probably another £100.

We make sure we include these services in our already 'better than dealer' service prices.

Similarly, we do not have hidden extras; the price we quote you already includes all parts, fluids and VAT and so it really is the bill you will get.

We know that the last thing a customer wants is a nasty surprise when it comes to paying!

Rest assured that with Permovero, we only use quality parts, such as Bosch and Delphi, and premium oil like Castrol or Mobil 1.

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As a car owner, you can't really blame the vehicle for failing if you haven't kept on top of the basics!

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Kick around with MP to celebrate new posts!

VALE MP Alun Cairns joined three local schoolboys as they celebrated their successful campaign for rugby posts in their local park at Barry Island.

Mr Cairns met the youngsters at Maslin Park for a practice kicking session over the new posts.

The boys were John McAllister and Jack Jones, who attend Barry Comprehensive, and younger brother Cameron McAllister, who is a pupil at Barry Island Primary School.

The Vale MP contacted the council at the end of last year, to ask about their plans to regenerate and improve the sporting facilities at the park.

Mr Cairns said: "Credit must be given to the Vale Council for their prompt and positive response to the boys' campaign to improve the facilities at Maslin Park on the Island."



PICTURED: John and Cameron McAllister and Jack Jones with Alun Cairns MP

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GEM sport

Three-tries Wales make it three wins in a row against the Irish Old Guard and now set their sights on the Scots ...BUT LET'S NOT TALK OF A GRAND SLAM JUST YET!



ABOVE:
Giant wing, George North, who terrorised the Irish defence all afternoon and again confirmed his world class status.

BELOW: Jonathan Davies goes over for his second try, courtesy of North's sleight of hand.



BACK PAGE COMMENT by Don John

WALES travelled to Dublin for their opening Six Nations rugby match on Sunday, knowing they were entering a bubbling cauldron, where the usual Celtic camaraderie had been temporarily suspended and 'revenge' was on everyone's lips in the streets of the Irish capital.

The proud men in green had been incensed at being denied victory in Cardiff during last year's championship by Mike Phillips' 'illegal' try, after the wrong ball was seemingly used at a quick line-out – for Wales to edge home by 19-13.

That was a bad enough blow to Irish pride, but worse was to follow just six months later in New Zealand, when Warren Gatland's fired-up young Welsh recruits ended their Rugby World Cup hopes, putting the Old Guard to the sword at the Battle of Wellington – and sending them home to the Emerald Isle on a back of a humiliating 22-10 quarter final defeat.

(Another opportunist try by bogey man Phillips merely served to rub salt in the wound) Little wonder, then, that the Irish camp, who had let it be known beforehand that they "knew how to beat Wales", believed they had a double score to settle and itched to reassert their dominance over upstart Celtic cousins from across the water in this year's Six Nations.

After all, prior to RWC 2011, they had won 10 times in 15 encounters, with Wales winning just five – including the Grand Slam years 2005, 2008. However, that stunning RWC result had moved Wales further ahead in the overall wins table, with 65 to Ireland's 47 – plus six matches drawn.

Indeed, apart from a 54-10 landslide win in Dublin in 2002, matches between the two have invariably been dramatic, nail-biting affairs, with no quarter expected, or given, and barely a handful of points separating them at close of play.

The big question was, could Wales again rise to the occasion and repeat that convincing RWC performance Down Under, in the hostile environment of a packed Dublin stadium?

Most pundits had predicted that the task would be beyond a team shorn of four of the first choice forwards who had spearheaded the World Cup heroics, and now facing battle-hardened veterans boosted by their regions' success in Europe, and roared on by a capacity home crowd.

Ominously, at the outset it seemed that Irish pre-match confidence was justified, as the Welsh defence was immediately put at full stretch, the intense pressure resulting in a penalty, which outside half Jonathan Sexton calmly slotted over for a three-point lead after just three minutes.

However, under Kiwi Gatland, this new generation of young Welsh players is fast developing a hard-edged physical and mental resilience which first surfaced during World Cup displays that won universal acclaim.

They promptly hit back and after former skipper Ryan Jones had a try controversially disallowed, Scarlets centre Jonathan Davies completed a top-drawer Welsh move, bursting over for the first of his two tries, thanks to a clever one-handed pass from regional team mate Rhys Priestland.

Back from injury and happily restored at outside half, Priestland hit the post with the

Pictures courtesy of the Huw Evans Agency.



ABOVE; Jubilation, as Welsh players claim another touchdown.

conversion attempt and did so again five minutes later with a penalty!

Welsh supporters feared that these misses could prove critical, but were relieved when Sexton too missed with a penalty attempt – only to have their hopes jolted by a simple, converted try that gave Ireland a 10-5 lead at the change-over – this despite Wales having dominated territory and possession.

When Ireland struck again one minute into the second half with a Sexton penalty, and Priestland failed with his third attempted place kick when it was their opponents' turn to be penalised, many must have wondered if this was to be yet another case of 'so near yet so far' for Wales with the scoreboard now showing a 13-5 deficit.

A change of place kicker brought an immediate change of fortune when Leigh Halfpenny took over the duty and landed a successful penalty; following this up by converting Jonathan Davies' second try, following a break by the quite outstanding George North to give Wales a 15-13 lead, as they went into the final quarter.

The Welsh players had barely finished celebrating, however, when disaster struck and lock Bradley Davies was fortunate to receive only 10 minutes in the sin bin after dangerously upending an opponent yards in an off the ball incident.

Ireland regained a one-point lead with yet another Sexton penalty and seemed to have the game almost won when winger, Tommy Bowe, clinically finished off a move out wide – though the try was unconverted – to make the score 21-15, with 10 minutes to go to full time.

The Irish then had another chance to put the issue beyond doubt, but failed with a penalty attempt – and it was now that the 14-man Welsh team showed their new-found mettle as

Scrum half Mike Phillips gets the ball away to launch a Welsh attack.



George North rampaged over the try line with three defenders desperately clinging on, to bring his team within one point at 21-20.

Halfpenny missed the conversion but made amends with one minute left on the clock, when Ireland's Stephen Ferris was sent to the sin bin for a 'tip' tackle and the Blues man sent his penalty kick straight and true between the posts for a heartening 23-21 victory (the third in a row against the Irish).

It suddenly opens up all sorts of possibilities for Wales, who can look forward to three home matches in their bid to top the championship.

Next up is Scotland, who after their 6-13 defeat to England in Saturday's dismal Calcutta Cup match at Murrayfield, surely will not view coming to Cardiff this weekend with optimism.

In contrast, despite the resurfacing of age-old problems with the line-out, Gatland can now prepare his charges with confidence for the next hurdle, as they strive to build Six Nations momentum – and maintain the long-term goal of consistency.

However, the New Zealander also knows that there is a pressing need to contain the euphoria in the wake of such a fine display, and temper media-led expectations with realism.

He knows it is a pressure his young charges could well do without. Above all, it is far too premature to talk of Grand Slams, with England (away) and favourites France yet to come.

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